

Unequivocal endorsement of reforms

Thatcher gives full support to Gorbachov

From MARY DEJEVSKY AND ROBIN OAKLEY IN MOSCOW

THE Prime Minister yesterday gave an unequivocal endorsement of President Gorbachov's "remarkable" reform programme and, at a Kremlin dinner in her honour, expressed confidence in its eventual success.

She said the Soviet Union had chosen "an historic new path for the future", and offered a powerful boost to the Soviet leader at a time when he is beset by domestic problems.

As though recognizing Mr Gorbachov's difficulties — with an economic reform programme widely regarded as inadequate and likely to be defeated in parliament, panic buying in anticipation of price rises, the election of the radical Mr Boris Yeltsin as President of the Russian Federation, and renewed ethnic violence in the Caucasus and Central Asia — Mrs Thatcher said: "I wonder if you know, Mr President, how

many well-wishers you have in the world over, willing you and your people to succeed."

Mrs Thatcher pointed to a new constitutional relationship between the republics and the central government, a new political structure based on multi-party democracy and a new economic policy based on the market. Any one of those changes, she said, would be startling seen against the legacy of the past. "Taken together, they are really remarkable." Mrs Thatcher had earlier told Mr Gorbachov that the reforms he had begun amounted to one of the greatest achievements of the twentieth century. And at a meeting with the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, Mrs Thatcher predicted the Soviet Union would end the century on a high note. "You will do it!"

Yesterday morning, Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachov spent two-and-a-half hours in talks dominated by the future of Germany and Europe. Mrs Thatcher voiced understanding of Soviet objections to Nato membership for a united Germany and offered assurances that Soviet security interests would be fully taken into account.

The two leaders later held a joint press conference at which Mr Gorbachov concentrated on the need for economic reform, while Mrs Thatcher defended the Western view that a united Germany should be in Nato if that was what the Germans decided and her view that effective security required strong defences.

Mrs Thatcher was reported to have mentioned to Mr Gorbachov Britain's determination to keep an independent nuclear deterrent. "We have an independent deterrent and we intend to keep it at the minimum credible level." Mr Gorbachov did not apparently raise the question of "non-circumvention" of the projected agreement reducing strategic range arms (Start), the codeword for Britain's plan to purchase the US-made Trident missile. The issue of Britain's deterrent was reportedly raised at the Washington summit.

The leaders publicly acknowledged their differences on a framework for European security. Mrs Thatcher opposed the idea of the Warsaw Pact and Nato operating as parallel linked bodies and rejected calls for the common security system favoured by Mr Gorbachov. She said: "I

REVIEW
The shame of Waterloo

The shame of Waterloo



There will be a mock battle next weekend to mark the 175th anniversary of Waterloo. There is another battle still to be fought to clear up the mess the battlefield has become. Michael Binyon reports: Page 32

Village that saved its lighthouse

When a Norfolk village was told its lighthouse was to close some people wrung their hands and others rang alarm bells. Brian James reports on a unique campaign: Page 29

Edwina Currie

If I were David Owen: Page 30

Is wine such a liquid asset?

Drinkers may dream of laying down wine as an investment. Jane MacQuarry says it might make merry, but it won't make money: Page 35

SPORT

Robson on Robson

England captain Bryan Robson talks to Stuart Jones about the World Cup — and about his manager Bobby Robson: Page 48

CLASS LISTS

The first Class Lists from Oxford University, in natural science, pure and applied biology and zoology, are published today: Page 12

Throughout the summer The Times will be publishing degrees from all United Kingdom universities, together with first class degrees from polytechnics.

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Meanwhile, back at the Lazy Cowboy . . .

From MARTIN FLETCHER
WASHINGTON

THE American cowboy, symbol of the rugged individualism which made this nation great, is disappearing. The truth is that no one wants the job these days. From Texas to North Dakota, young men raised in the West are turning their backs on the buckaroo's rugged life. They no longer want to spend their days on horseback — rounding up, branding and castrating cattle, mending fences and clearing corrals — and their nights in the bunkhouse.

If they can get them, they prefer well-paid jobs in towns or cities, with regular hours, families and comfortable hi-tech homes. The supply of skilled cowhands has "plumbed dried up". In desperation, cattlemen from Montana, Colorado and Arizona

have, for the first time in their history, begun legally to import cowhands from Mexico and Peru, with ranchers in Texas, New Mexico and Utah likely to follow suit.

In Wyoming, the state with a cowboy on every vehicle licence plate, Miss Orlorio Mercado, of the Mountain Plains Agricultural Service, advertised for six cowhands on behalf of ranchers earlier this year, and says she received no reply.

There is high unemployment in Wyoming, "but evidently they don't want this kind of work," complains Miss Irene Redland, who has a few thousand acres and several hundred head of cattle.

"I think our country is getting lazy. I think the people in our country are really lazy." The unemployed, she says, prefer to receive welfare and the few who apply for the jobs she advertises

are "not worth a dime when you get them".

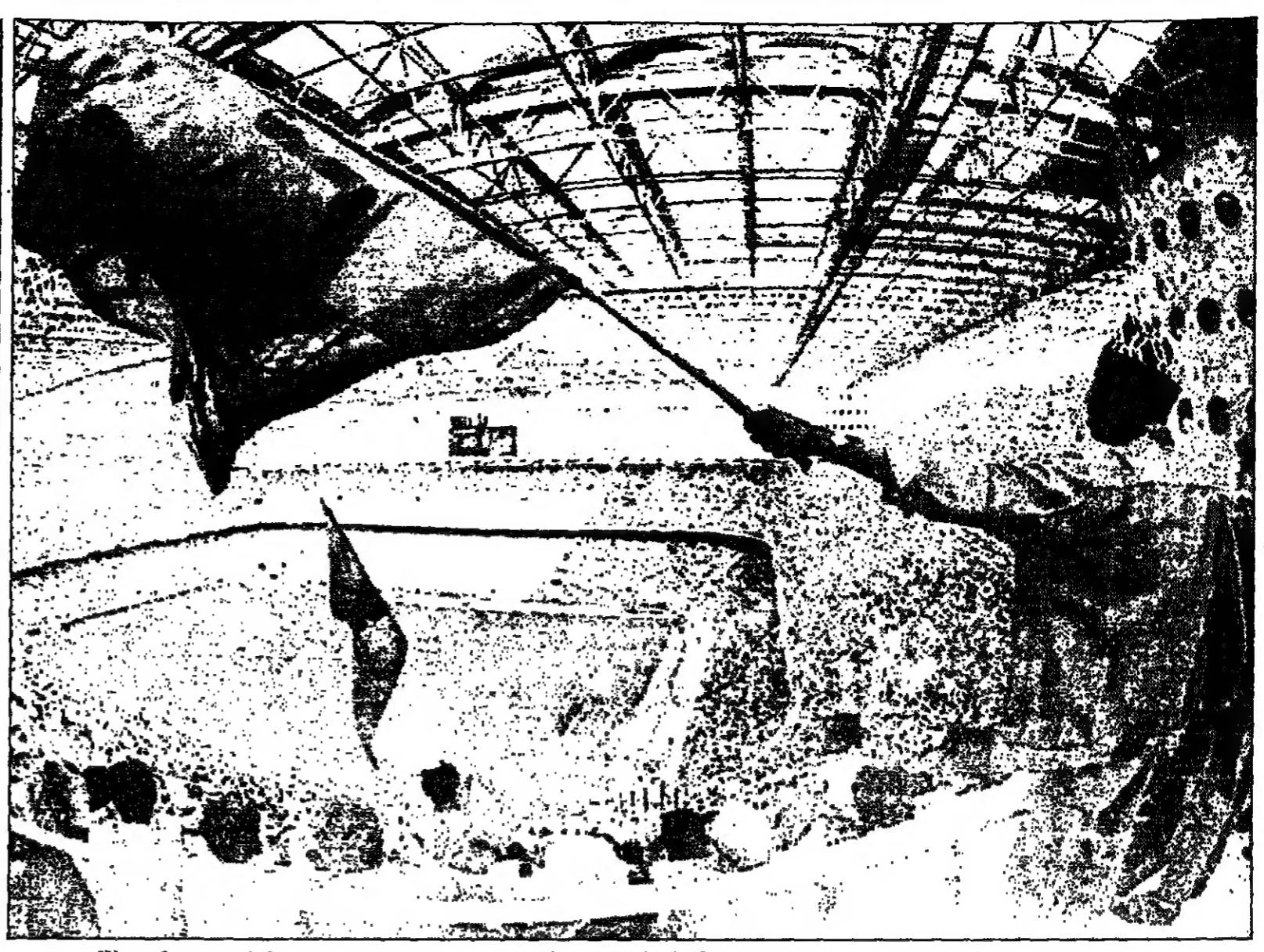
Mr Chandler Keys, spokesman for the National Cattlemen's Association in Washington, says that it is becoming "harder and harder" for ranchers to hire good men. "It's tough work; not a lot of pay; long hours; a lonesome 365-day-a-year job with only a horse and dog for company. You can't just take off for Florida for two weeks."

Mr Jerry Jack, executive vice-president of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, speaks of the difficulty of bringing in outsiders to replace skilled men. "There ain't no college in the nation that can teach you to handle livestock or break horses."

According to Mr Greg Baker, foreman of the 50,000-acre Le Barr ranch, which spans Wyoming and Montana, the gringo cowboy is a

dying breed. "The American rancher is raising his children to be doctors and lawyers, and, hell, when the ranch kids are becoming doctors and lawyers, who's going to run the ranch?"

Mexicans will. They can earn between \$600 (£353) and \$800 a month plus board, lodging and travel to and from the US. They can stay for three years. If they are lucky, their bunkhouse will have a satellite receiving dish for television. That is not much to an American. "You can get better pay cleaning cars in a country gas station," says Mr Richard Rattenberg, curator of history at Oklahoma City's National Cowboy Hall of Fame. But it is four times what Mexican *vagabundos* could hope to get back home. Ranchers are also changing techniques, rounding up cattle by helicopter, pick-up truck or even cross-country motorbike.



Wave of support: A Cameroon fan waving his national flag at the World Cup opening ceremony in Milan's Meazza stadium

Russia votes itself supreme

From MARY DEJEVSKY
MOSCOW

THE Russian Federation yesterday proclaimed that its constitution and laws should take priority over Soviet laws in the event of a conflict. The announcement came in a declaration on sovereignty submitted to the Russian Federation Congress (Parliament) meeting in Moscow.

The article on the priority of Russian laws was approved by 544 votes to 271. The declaration as a whole still has to be passed by the Congress's editorial commission before being resubmitted next week, but there is no doubt that it will be passed.

At present, the laws of the Russian Federation barely differ from those of other republics, as they proceed from a "basic law" common to the Soviet Union. Now that Mr Boris Yeltsin is president, however, and has committed himself to rapid economic and political reform, conflict between the centre and the Russian Federation cannot be discounted.

President Gorbachov responded to the move with equanimity. Speaking at a press conference with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, he said: "Nothing has so far been passed that contravenes the USSR constitution. I am 100 per cent certain that neither the Russian Federation Congress nor the Russian Supreme Soviet will pass laws that would damage the Federation or jeopardise the process of its removal."

Earlier, Mr Gorbachov expressed the hope that Mr Yeltsin would act constructively and in the spirit of perestroika. There was no room for personal emotions in such matters, the Soviet leader said in a BBC interview. The issues before them were not insurmountable obstacles. But, he said, solutions would depend on the line taken by Mr Yeltsin. What Mr Yeltsin had said in the days before his election as chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation were one thing. The way he would act in the future was another.

There was no room for personal emotions in such matters, the Soviet leader said in a BBC interview. The issues before them were not insurmountable obstacles. But, he said, solutions would depend on the line taken by Mr Yeltsin. What Mr Yeltsin had said in the days before his election as chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation were one thing. The way he would act in the future was another.

Last night, an anonymous caller to the BBC in Southampton claimed animal rights activists had planted the

IRA's bomb expert is jailed for 30 years

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE man who organized an IRA bomb factory designed to supply a mainland campaign two years ago was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after being found guilty of conspiracy to cause explosions.

Nicholas Mullen, aged 42, a dealer in electronic equipment, of Wood Green, north London, was found guilty by a majority of 10 to 2 at the end of a trial that lasted more than five weeks. Eamon Wadey, aged 36, also of Wood Green, was found not guilty of aiding terrorists and was cleared of four charges of making property available for terrorism.

Sentencing Mullen, Mr Justice Hilden QC said: "I am satisfied you are a very dangerous man. You combine a high degree of criminal cunning with commitment to a political cause."

The judge told him that but for good fortune there would have been a deadly bombing campaign and "for the death and destruction and the maiming and mourning that would have followed you

it will be every bit as responsible as those who set off the bombs."

The sentence is the most severe handed down to any convicted of aiding and abetting IRA activities on the mainland and is clearly aimed at warning members of the terrorist support networks of the penalties they may face.

Mullen was arrested by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch last year after police stumbled on one of the biggest terrorist caches seen in mainland Britain, in a south London flat. Mullen had been used to create 40 bombs.

Detectives investigating the bomb factory soon discovered that Mullen was the organizer, and that he was supported by a network of hideouts, financial back-up and cars. In the autumn of 1988, he arranged the rental of a Clapham flat, which became the main depot for an intensive attack scheduled to be launched over Christmas that year. He prepared calculations for homemade mortars and hired a workshop in east London that police suspect would have been used to make weapons.

The plans collapsed after police accidentally discovered the Clapham flat when one of the terrorists, on watch outside, was disturbed by a passer-by and opened fire.

Nitro test, page 3

Swindon maurus, page 2
Opening match, page 45

Cameroon upset champions

From JOHN GOODBODY
IN CAIGLIARI

TINY Cameroon brought the first big upset in the World Cup yesterday by beating the defending champions Argentina in the opening game. Osman Biyik's 66th-minute goal brought victory to a team reduced to 10 men after Kana Biyik was sent off in the second half of the match in Milan.

The 14th World Cup tournament had earlier opened with a ceremony of Latin colour and pageantry, mixing spectacle with the music of Verdi. The presidents of Italy, Brazil, Romania, Argentina and Cameroon, attended the ceremony. An Italian Summer, was followed by a parade and the release of balloons.

The final on July 8 is expected to be watched by an eighth of the world's population.

© ROME: Sales of alcohol will be banned in Rome and the surrounding provinces for 41 hours when matches are played in the city.

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Labour seeks ban on ex-ministers joining privatized firms

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour Party yesterday called for a ban on former ministers taking jobs on the board of firms privatized by the Government until the introduction of rules for such appointments.

Mr Gordon Brown, the trade and industry spokesman, has written to the Prime Minister seeking an assurance that no more former ministers were about to join the board of a privatized company. He demanded regulations similar to those which apply to civil servants, particularly senior officials who must seek permission before joining a company within two years of retire-

ment or resignation. Figures show that the number of applications dealt with under the Civil Service rules rose by 13 per cent last year to 989.

Ninety-three applications came from the top three grades of the service, 339 from grades four to seven and 558 from the rank of senior executive officer and below. The figures show that 59 per cent of applications were dealt with by retired Cabinet ministers advancing their private interests.

Mr Brown said that people were told privatization was about making industries efficient, but that it now looked like "jobs for the boys". He added: "Too many departing Cabinet ministers are moving straight from the Cabinet room to the boardroom of our privatized

companies. Once our nationalized companies were the final responsibility of Cabinet ministers who were to account for them in the public interest. Now it seems increasingly the boards of privatized industries are being staffed by retired Cabinet ministers advancing their private interests.

"Privatization began with the selling of the family silver," he said. "It is now ending in the farce of golden parachutes for departing Cabinet ministers".

The appointment of a number of former ministers to the board of privatized companies has fuelled opposition protests and demands for regulations. Just over a month after he resigned from the Cabinet, Mr Peter Walker, the

former Secretary of State for Wales, Energy and Agriculture became a non-executive director of British Gas, which was privatized while he was at the Department of Energy. He saw through the privatization legislation and the subsequent privatization of the company.

In May, Mr Norman Fowler was appointed a non-executive director of the National Freight Corporation. Mr Fowler, who resigned from the Cabinet in January, was a Minister for Transport at the time that NFC was being prepared for privatization. Mr Norman Tebbit, who was responsible for privatizing British Telecom, became a non-executive director of BT after leaving the Government in 1987, and Lord Joseph,

Under civil service rules all applications to join a commercial body from permanent secretary, second permanent secretary and deputy secretary level are referred to an advisory committee on

business appointments. Applications from lower grades over which there are doubts or potential difficulties are dealt with by the Cabinet Office. In 1989, 246 applications were referred to the Cabinet Office, with 117 from the Ministry of Defence including 50 from members or former members of the forces.

The result of the referrals was that two were approved with the maximum two-year waiting period, 123 approved subject to conditions with a marked increase in the use of waiting periods, and 121 were approved unconditionally. The figures from the Cabinet Office reveal an 17 per cent increase in applications to which conditions were attached compared with 1988.

Clarke says consultants cannot veto opt-outs

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HOSPITALS will be allowed to become self-governing even if the majority of consultant staff are opposed to the move, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health made clear yesterday.

Mr Clarke stressed that consultants would not be able to veto a hospital proposal to set up as an NHS trust, even though he expects senior medical staff to be closely involved in the new management of these hospitals.

"No group can have a veto on these things," Mr Clarke said. "The views of consultants are an important consideration that we will have to bear in mind but that does not mean consultants will be given the right to veto any changes." If they had been given this right in the past, doctors would have vetoed the creation of the health service in 1948 and the introduction of general management in 1983, he said.

Speaking at the Institute of Health Services Management's annual conference in Torquay, Mr Clarke dismissed

a survey of ballot results showing that consultants were overwhelmingly against the idea of self-governing status in 21 out of 28 of the hospitals which are frontrunners to become NHS trusts next April. The figures were published by the British Medical Association on Thursday.

Opinions were still being formed, he said, and it was hardly surprising that doctors were opposed to changes when they were told by BMA leaders that these would herald the demise of the health service. "BMA campaigners on these places with their roadshows and say this is the end of the world as we know it, and then ask them if they think this is a good idea."

In many hospitals consultant opinion was divided between those in academic positions and those who admitted patients to hospitals. In addition many of the ballots had included the views of medical students.

Mr Clarke was confident that 70 or 80 hospitals would still put in formal applications for self-governing status when the NHS and Community Care Bill receives Royal Assent but he was unclear how many of these would be given approval.

Earlier the health secretary made clear that the NHS reforms would go ahead under the planned timetable from next April but he did not expect significant changes in the pattern of hospital and community services. The Government was aiming for a straightforward transition to the new system following careful planning - "a smooth take-off with no surprises".

He said, though, that he did expect to see differences in some areas, such as quality standards. "Duncan Nichol [health service chief executive] and I remain firmly resolved to break the present mould and create the new-style NHS from April 1 1991," he said. "I have never seen myself in the grand old Duke of York role taking them to the top of the hill merely to take them down again."

However, he warned of the risks of being complacent and doing nothing, which would eventually lead to the deterioration of the health service and a rapid growth of the private sector as a more successful competitor.

He also stressed the need for a firm financial base for the reforms and urged health authorities to balance their books by the end of this year. The NHS could not afford to go on living beyond its means and the elimination of underlying deficits was now an urgent priority, he said.

Mr Clarke maintained that authorities had not had their resources squeezed this year, and argued that managers should not be cutting back services to balance their books. "I do not accept that the only way of making savings is to reduce services. Within some areas the manpower payroll is out of all proportion."

Desolate Swindon fans mourn loss of league place

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

FLAGS flew at half-mast from the civic centre in the old railway town of Swindon yesterday as thousands smarted from the pain of the wound inflicted on their football club.

For the fans, wandering disconsolately around the shabby County ground in pouring rain, their team's double-relegation was more like a death in the family than a sporting disaster.

A bunch of pink and white carnations perched on a shelf beside the entrance to the directors' box, accompanied by a funeral card bearing the words: "With Deepest Sympathy".

As the club chairman, Mr Gary Herbert, vowed that the board would resign if that would resolve the crisis, the mayor and the local MP joined in to vent their concern at the club's "death sentence".

Absenteeism at the town's thriving industrial estates was said, too, to be up as the whole community mourned. Mr John West, aged 23, a software engineer from nearby Wootton Bassett, maintained:

"I had to take the day off work because I just could not concentrate. I think what's happened is barbaric and completely unjustified. I cannot see how the Football League can have taken it away from us at our moment of glory."

The League's verdict on the Swindon scandal encouraged hundreds of fans, many of them in tears, to besiege the ground where they chanted hopelessly: "The Reds are staying up". They stopped the traffic and later, two were arrested for allegedly breaking windows.

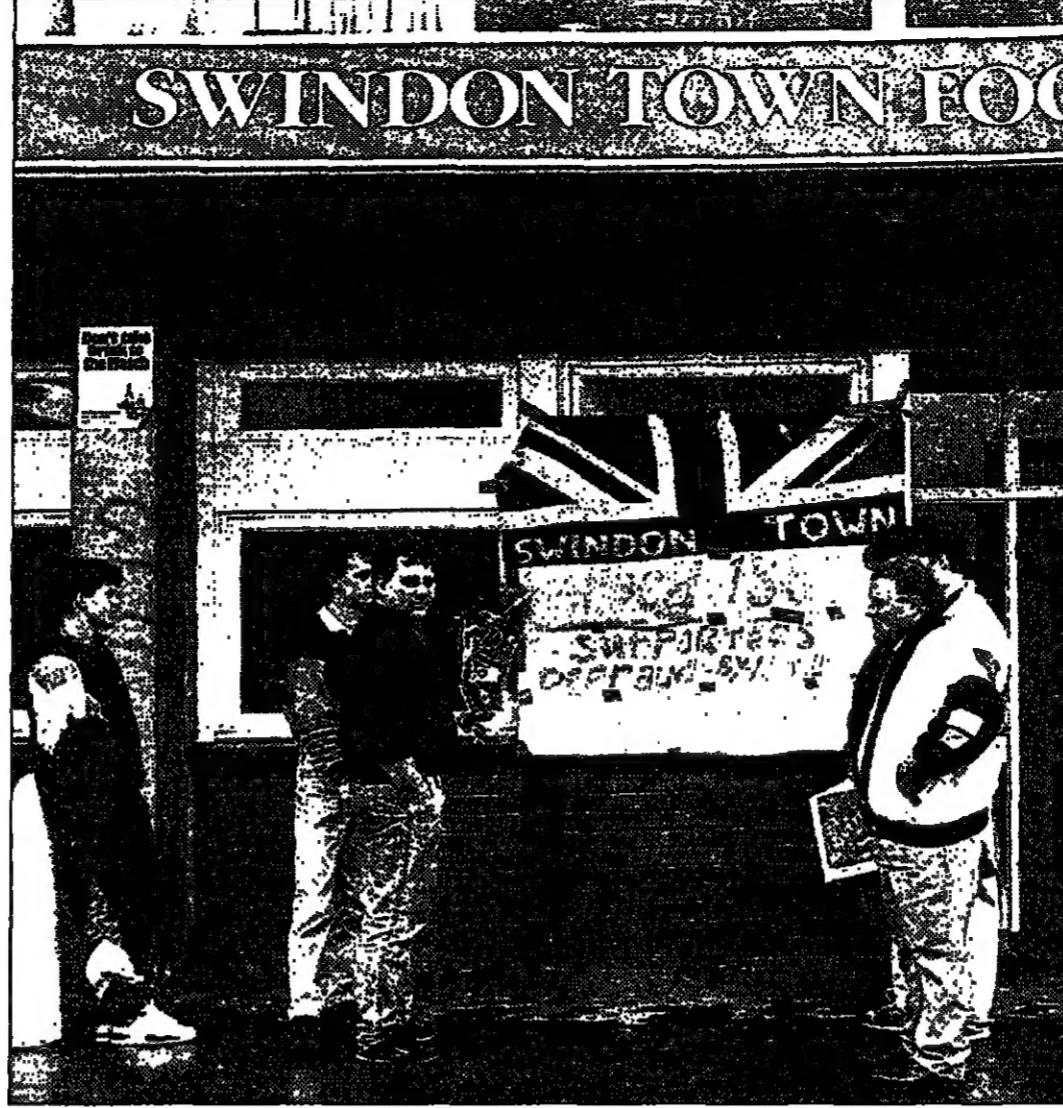
A gate was opened in the early hours and supporters poured onto the sacred pitch where the team had performed miracles of glory last season. About 300 paraded volubly but peacefully before sympathetic police ushered them out about 30 minutes later.

Yesterday morning they returned to the ground to listen to the players, who also arrived to await the latest news. Chris Calderwood, the club captain, went on to the pitch to read a prepared statement from the team, a number of whom then repaired to a local golf course to ease their cares.

Calderwood said: "On behalf of all the players we are quite naturally devastated at the result of the Football League inquiry, after all the efforts of the past 10 months.

"However, after seeing the

response of people within



Despairing fans express their views as they gather yesterday outside Swindon Town's ground where the flag flies at half mast

fanaticism, we are glad the club is appealing to the Football League, and we pin our hopes on the football authorities to impose a more appropriate and reasonable penalty."

At the civic centre the mayor, Mr Derique Montant, disclosed he was embarking on a campaign to reinstate Swindon to the First Division. Mr Montant, who cancelled his arrangements for the day and asked his officers to do the same, said: "Rough justice has been handed out by making us pay the price of other people's wrong-doings. It is a very sad

day for Swindon."

The Wiltshire town probably deserves the prestige of

First Division football for it

has pulled itself up by its

bootstraps since the industrial

depression of less than a

generation ago.

Swindon was scarcely more than a village until Brunel chose it to build his locomotive works in the mid-19th century after which it boomed as a famous railway centre on a par with Crewe.

Its more recent civic forebears however had the perspicacity to realize the need to diversify the interests of this one-industry town as employment from the railway works declined.

Today it has a burgeoning industrial base - high tech as well as heavy industry. Honda and Austin Rover are amongst the bigger employers, together with computer software houses and insurance companies attracted by the green fields they could not find in London and lower local costs.

Today, Swindon is an example of the Thatcher revolution with high employment and the reputation of one of the fastest-growing towns in the country.

Mr Simon Coombs, the local Tory MP, has en-

couraged its transformation but even he knows the importance of its football club to the community.

He said: "I am very sad and very angry at the decision that has been taken. The present board of directors and the manager have not had the finger of suspicion pointed at them. They, the players and the fans, are being punished for the alleged sins of other people. I just hope the Football League will think about this and reduce the sentence".

As the board met in emergency session at Swindon Town's ground (formed 1881, average crowd last season 9,500) the sodden fans stood in small groups in shallow puddles waiting for they knew not what.

New reached him and the others that Osiris Ardiles, the popular Argentinian manager of the club, was flying home from a holiday in South America after his assistant Mr Chic Bates had managed to locate him by telephone.

Mr Bates described his own reaction to the League's punishment as "just like death", and added: "Everyone connected with the club - players, staff and supporters - must all be suffering in the same way. To be put in the Third Division is scandalous."

Meanwhile, a group of season-ticket holders was seeking legal advice on suing the League on the grounds that many of them spent an average £100 per head watching the team play at Wembley recently to win a play-off place in the First Division, from which the League took a substantial profit.

Mr Chris Scott, chairman of the Supporters' Club, said: "The punishment does not fit the crime. It is a savage sentence and what the league has done is to punish the loyal fans of Swindon. We are devastated."

Manager flies back, page 45

Leading article, page 11

Strip mill closure affirmed

By KERRY GILL

BRITISH Steel yesterday reaffirmed its decision to close the strip mill at the Ravenscraig steel plant with the loss of 770 jobs, bringing more angry reaction from leaders across the political spectrum in Scotland.

Mr Michael Llownach, chief executive of British Steel, said: "The board has taken its decision. It is the board's responsibility to make sure that we make the business as competitive as we can."

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said: "If Mr Llownach is willing to speak to the media, he should be willing to speak to his own employees."

Bros settle claim

The pop stars Bros ended their dispute with their former management company 3 Style Ltd at the High Court after agreeing to pay £42,564 in settlement of the firm's damages claim. The company had sought £1.2 million from Matt and Luke Goss, alleging breach of contract.

Airline cleared

The Australian airline Qantas was cleared by the Civil Aviation Authority after one of its jumbo jets came close to running out of fuel over London after a flight from Singapore. The authority said the plane had sufficient fuel on board to meet international safety requirements.

£40m left in will

Lady Teresa Agnew, who died last September aged 56, left £40,030 net in her will, published yesterday. Her first husband, Viscount Galway, died in 1971 three years after the couple had established the Melbury Park Stud in Dorset. She then married Lieutenant Mark Agnew.

Benefit increase

The Government yesterday announced an increase of £7.10 a week in welfare benefits for disabled teenagers aged 16 and 17. Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister for Social Security, said the extra benefit would go to about 4,000 teenagers, increasing the rate from £27.30 to £44.20 a week.

Rising crime 'threatens rail safety'

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RISING crime rates are threatening the safety of passengers and increasing the prospects of a major railway disaster, a report by the British Transport Police said yesterday.

Overall offences increased by 4.6 per cent in 1989, but attempts to obstruct the railway were up by 35 per cent and offences endangering passenger safety such as stone throwing increased by 39.5 per cent. The report, compiled by the force's chief constable, Mr Desmond O'Brien, said: "Increases of this scale are of concern to both the police and the industry. The potential for disaster in each and every incident is clear."

The derailment of the Oxford to Paddington express at West Ealing, west London, last August after action by vandals was described as a chilling example of railway obstruction, which prompted police to start a series of rail safety lectures for schools.

Sexual offences were up 60.9 per cent

with equipment such as catalytic converters, which absorb 90 per cent of noxious engine gases, are working.

The regulations are also seen as a first step towards making emission controls part of the MoT test. This would force motorists to keep their engines in the most fuel-efficient state, adding to fuel economy, which cuts output of carbon dioxide, a gas contributing to global warming.

Mr Robert Atkins, Minister for Roads and Traffic, said in a written parliamentary answer yesterday: "The regulations require the user of a vehicle to keep the engine in tune and any emission control equipment, such as a catalyst, will be able to check emissions and ensure that models fitted

with this responsibility and it is in their own interest to do so. Keeping an engine in tune helps reduce fuel consumption as well as keeping emissions down."

● FORD, Britain's biggest car company, has reacted swiftly to the slump in new car sales, which show a 13 per cent drop in May. It is offering free insurance on three of its best-selling models in a scheme which could cost it more than £30 million.

Buyers of Fiesta, Escort and Orion cars will be offered one year's free cover. Ford estimates that the saving on fully comprehensive insurance on a 1.3-litre Escort would average £300, though the value for the high-performance Fiesta XR2i could be £1,500.



Two traffic wardens in Gloucester, who are the first in the country to have the use of mopeds

Black Beauty paintings are open to the highest bidder

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THE future looked bad for Black Beauty when, crippled by a fall caused by a careless stable boy and weakened by pulling cabs in London, he found himself in a line-up of nags at a horse fair. Luckily, his breeding shone through and he was bought by a farmer with a kind face.

Philipps, the auctioneers, said yesterday that it hoped for a similarly happy outcome when the original painting for the 1915 edition of Anna Sewell's children's classic is opened to offers on Tuesday.

The oil painting, entitled "It Was An Anxious Time", is one of 30 illustrations from the 1915 book by the artist Lucy Kemp-Welch. Mr James Crook of Philipps said: "We've had a reception for Black Beauty when, crippled by a fall caused by a careless stable boy and weakened by pulling cabs in London, he found himself in a line-up of nags at a horse fair. Luckily, his breeding shone through and he was bought by a farmer with a kind face.

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The sale will include many heart-lifting and heart-breaking episodes, with estimates ranging from £200 to £20,000. In "My Early Home", an ink drawing surrounded by a frame of pussy willows, with an estimated value of £400 to £600, Black Beauty gallops in his paddock. In "I Stood There and Listened", a water-

woman whose life suffered a poignant parallel with that of her creation, Black Beauty, after she became an invalid as a result of an accident in her teens and had to rely on a pony or horse. Black Beauty was published three months before her death in 1878.

Buying The Times newspaper
Australia 50c 32; Belgium 2.50;
Canada 50c 32; Germany 2.50;
Finland 50c 10.00; France 10.00;
Greece 50c 10.00; Holland 50c;
Iceland 50c; Italy 1.00; Japan 1.00;
Norway 50c; Portugal 1.00;
Spain 50c 2

Scientists' nitro tests kept secret, Maguire QC says

GOVERNMENT scientists carried out tests before and during the Maguire trial which showed it was possible to be contaminated innocently with explosives but they did not disclose the results, it was alleged yesterday.

One test conducted during the trial proved that a person could pick up nitro-glycerine under the fingernails by scraping them across the palm of a hand that bore traces of the explosive, the inquiry into the Maguire convictions headed by Sir John May, QC, was told.

At the 1976 trial the prosecution claimed it would have been necessary for large amounts of explosive to have been kneaded in the hands to get under the nails. Six of the Maguire family and a friend were convicted of handling explosives solely on the basis of forensic tests at the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment (RARDE) in Woolwich, south London. The Maguires were arrested after IRA pub bombings in Woolwich, Guildford and Birmingham in 1974.

The existence of the tests was disclosed during cross-examination of Mr Douglas Higgs, a former head of the establishment. Mr Anthony

Arledge, QC, counsel for the Maguires, drew Mr Higgs's attention to a test carried by Dr John Carver at RARDE.

He collected traces of nitro-glycerine under his fingernails by drawing them across his palm after handling the explosive. The test in February 1976, two weeks after Mr Higgs told the trial it was not possible to transfer explosive by "clenching" the hand.

Mr Arledge put it to him that the information should have been disclosed. He replied: "In principle one cannot deny that". But he insisted he knew nothing of the second test would have been under no obligation to disclose its result.

He told the inquiry: "If he felt that he could support his case adequately then I think he need not have disclosed this, because in his mind this does not disprove what he already had found. He certainly would not have written this up as a statement."

Mr Annie Maguire, her sons Patrick and Vincent, her brother Sean Smyth, husband Patrick, his brother-in-law Giuseppe Conlon, who died in 1980, and a family friend, Patrick O'Neill were sentenced to between five and 14 years.

based on his experience after the Birmingham pub bombing. Mr Higgs said if he had been aware of two situations producing contradictory evidence "this would have been handed out to counsel".

At the inquiry on Thursday it was disclosed that a second set of forensic tests on the hand swabs of six of the Maguire seven had not been disclosed at the trial.

The second test proved negative. But it was said that this did not necessarily detract from the result of the first test. Yesterday, Mr Higgs said the scientist who carried out the second test would have been under no obligation to disclose its result.

He told the inquiry: "If he felt that he could support his case adequately then I think he need not have disclosed this, because in his mind this does not disprove what he already had found. He certainly would not have written this up as a statement."

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Father David Loman, of St Catherine's Church, Wickford, in Essex, baptizing Natasha Lowrie, aged nine months. Natasha's mother Natalie and four other members of the Paulo family were also baptized at a traditional circus christening in the Big Top of Paulo's Circus yesterday

Unions say capping will damage education reform

THREE of the largest teaching unions yesterday asked the High Court to stop the Government going ahead with its plans to charge-cap councils which are also local education authorities.

Led by the National Union of Teachers, they argued that the decision by Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for Environment, to impose limits on the levels of community charge was unlawful because it was at odds with the Government's own recent school reforms.

Mr Eldred Tabachnik, QC, for the NUT, said Mr Patten had failed to take into account that the reforms made it essential for governors now being made responsible for the budgets of individual schools to rely on levels of spending already fixed by their local education authorities.

The union, backed by the National Association of Head

Teachers and the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, was intervening in a judicial review in which 19 councils are challenging Mr Patten's decision.

If the councils fail they will be forced to cut spending across the range of services. That will almost certainly lead to reductions in the amounts available for local education.

The unions argue that, even if capping takes place, the councils have no power to cut funding for the present year now that budgets have been announced. They claim up to 2,000 teachers' jobs are threatened and there will be "catastrophic" consequences for many schools and disruption to the introduction of the national curriculum.

Mr Tabachnik told Lord Justice Leggett, Mr Justice McCullough and Mr Justice Roch that cuts would undermine the whole purpose of the

Education Reform Act 1988, which came into force at the same time as the poll tax legislation. "Governing bodies of schools must have a measure of predictability so that they can be on sure that the financial carpet on which they stand will not be pulled from under them," he said.

The NUT put evidence before the court from school heads and teachers in North Tyneside, Brent, Doncaster, Rotherham, Barnsley and Avon, which are among the local education authorities challenging charge-capping. All spoke of substantial problems being caused.

Lord Gifford, QC, for two Brent school governors also involved in the action, said the London borough's decision to cut school budgets after Mr Patten's charge-capping decision would put complex future spending plans "out of joint".

Police fear garage owner was abducted

By DAVID YOUNG

KENT police are investigating the possible abduction of a garage owner who disappeared from his showroom. Five luxury cars were also taken.

Mr Nicholas Whiting, aged 43, married with two children, was last seen at his All Car Equip Garage on the A20 at Wrotham, near Sevenoaks, at around 6.15pm on Thursday.

A police spokesman said: "We are concerned for the welfare of Mr Whiting, who it is feared may have been abducted. There are serious concerns growing for Mr Whiting's safety." Two of the cars had been found.

"He is a well respected businessman and well known in the local area for all the best possible reasons. There is the possibility of him being forcibly abducted."

Two men were seen approaching and leaving with an E-type Jaguar and BMW, which were recovered. One was in his early 20s, 6ft, with a slim, long face. The other, also in his 20s, was about 5ft 7in, with short, brown hair.

The Guinness trial

Jury told how rift began

By PAUL WILKINSON

ERNEST Saunders, former Guinness chief executive, told a jury yesterday of the moment that the relationship soured between himself and his former finance director, Mr Olivier Roux, the prosecution's chief witness against him in the Guinness trial.

In his fourth day of evidence in his defence, Mr Saunders said that it happened at a meeting in December 1986 at the offices of the solicitor Sir David Napley. It was shortly after the Department of Trade and Industry had launched an investigation into Guinness's £2.7 billion takeover of the Scottish drinks company Distillers.

Sir David had been questioning Mr Roux about a letter from the Ansbacher letter to the company's chairman, Mr Richard Fennell, and referred to the purchase of 2,150,000 Guinness shares at a cost of £7,614,682.10. Mr Saunders said that he did not know why he had received the letter as he had no dealings with Ansbacher except for a bitter clash with one of its directors, Lord Spens, during Guinness's takeover of Bells Whisky the year before.

Mr Saunders went on to say that shortly after the Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into the Distillers' takeover began in December 1986 there were all sorts of suggestions that the Guinness offices were bugged. He even had the head of the company's security department "sweep" the premises to search out listening devices, but without success. He said his concern was heightened after he found an office security man asleep at his desk, apparently drunk.

The hearing adjourned until Monday when Mr Saunders will continue giving his evidence.

Summit at No 10 to save film industry

By SHEILA GUNN

POLITICAL REPORTER

MRS Thatcher is to host a summit next Friday to discuss plans for tax allowances, increased grants and other incentives being drawn up by ministers, producers and financiers to rescue Britain's declining film industry.

The Prime Minister has dropped her opposition to the principle of extra incentives to reverse the drop in investment in British-made productions. But as yet there is no agreement among ministers on the best way to help.

The preferred options are a return of capital allowances, scrapped by the Government in 1985, or a large one-off grant to British producers, probably channelled through British Screen Finance. Sir Richard Attenborough and Mr David Puttnam, two leading film makers, have been invited to the seminar, along with a ministerial team including Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr Richard Luce, the Arts Minister.

Nissan gives £3m to Oxford college

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

NISSAN, the Japanese motor company, has given more than £3 million to an Oxford University college to build a new institute for Japanese studies. It is the latest in a series of donations to British universities and schools.

The car manufacturers gave £2.2 million to St Antony's College for the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies there, and to help create two lectureships in economics and social anthropology. It follows a donation of £1.5 million from Nissan to the university in 1979, which began a Japanese studies programme two years later.

The institute holds weekly seminars, organizes conferences and publishes books and occasional papers. The new building will be opened in October 1992 at a cost of £2.6 million and will house 100,000 books currently held in the Bodleian Library.

The institute is presently working out of a Victorian house, which has limited space. It teaches between 40 and 50 undergraduates and 15 graduates a year.

Dr Ann Wasswo, acting director of the institute, said yesterday: "We have outgrown our current space and this will enable us to consolidate and expand, giving us a

Closure threat for grammar schools

By CRAIG SETON

LABOUR-controlled Birmingham City Council is being urged to create a new girls' grammar school to comply with a High Court judgement that it was guilty of sex discrimination by providing more places for boys.

The council has started fresh talks with the single-sex grammar schools in an attempt to end the discrimination after issuing a warning that closure of all of them was one of five options to comply with the ruling.

The council has, however, given governors only until next month to consider the options. The creation of a new girls' grammar school is fa-



Mr Rooker: Council has a real dilemma

voured by governors and parents, but the Labour group could expect opposition from some of its own councillors to plans that would bolster selective education.

It has denied claims that it wants to close the schools because of ideological objections, but it has also said that there are too many secondary places because of falling rolls.

The council was taken to court by the Equal Opportunities Commission almost three years ago because the grammar schools provided more places for boys than girls.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham, Perry Barr, said he believed more places for girls should be created rather than diminish the number for boys, although he wants grammar schools to become co-educational. "The council has got a real dilemma. If the Equal Opportunities Commission finds discrimination, should be rooted out, but snuffing out the grammar schools is not an option," Mr Rooker said.

Parents have pledged to pay £50 each to save jobs at Davenant Foundation School in Loughton, Essex, teachers said yesterday. The school faces a £85,000 loss under a new funding scheme.

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Drink-drive ban for wheelchair man

A MOTORWAY worker has been banned from driving for three years for a drink-driving offence in a 4mph battery-powered wheelchair.

Simon Lunney, aged 20, took the hearing on April 26 that he had found Lunney slumped over the wheel of the £2,400 invalid carriage. Lunney had drunk more than 10 pints on the night of the incident, last October.

Lunney, who did not give evidence at the original hearing, told police in a tape-recorded interview he thought it was a normal car. He had travelled less than 100 yards before crashing. A breath test showed he was more than three times over the limit.

Lunney, who had denied the drink-driving offence and causing criminal damage to the wheelchair, admitted taking it without consent. He was found guilty on all counts.

Mr Rowlands agreed that Lunney had a previous conviction for drink-driving and was in breach of a probation order.

He also had several previous convictions. The court banned Lunney from driving for three years, put him on probation for two years and ordered him to pay £605 compensation to the wheelchair owner, Mrs Dorothy Bartlett, of Orchard Way, Camp Hill. He was also fined £100 for breach of a previous probation order.

Mr Rowlands said there would be no appeal against the sentence. Lunney declined to comment after the hearing.

Mr Rowlands was asked the hearing what would happen should his client be registered disabled during his driving ban. He said: "As I see it, should Mr Lunney be involved in an accident which renders him disabled for the next three years, he will be quite entitled to drive one of the battery wheelchairs for which he has now been found guilty of a drink-drive offence. As a disabled person, he would fall into the exempt category and would be able to drive one of the same models."

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| Initial Deposit | 40% | 30% | 20% | 20% |
| Initial Payment | £3,458.93 | £2,594.18 | £1,729.45 | £1,729.45 |
| Monthly Payment | £432.36 | £276.93 | £231.94 | £189.66 |
| Finance Charge | NIL | £608.24 | £1,447.04 | £2,200.88 |
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Applicants must be over 18 years of age and credit worthy. A guarantee may be required. Full written quotations are available on request. All finance offers are subject to credit acceptance, vehicle availability and relate to credit transactions completed before 31 August 1990. *Including a £15 acceptance fee payable with the first instalment.

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DRIVE ON

Patten launches attack on Labour's global warming plans

From MICHAEL McCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT
LUXEMBOURG

LABOUR's latest proposals for countering global warming were condemned as "no more than back of the envelope calculations and slogans" by Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday.

Labour plans to stabilize British emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the gas from coal-fired power stations and motor vehicles principally responsible for the greenhouse effect, by the year

2000 — five years ahead of the Government's target date. Mr Patten, however, said the scheme was ill thought out. "It has all the credibility of the Labour Party's proposals for a 'rooftax'." He scorned the idea that Labour might capture the green vote at the next election, even though its proposals are in line with calls from a number of European countries, and from many British environmentalists.

When in the House of Commons, he had asked Mr Bryan Gould, the shadow environment spokesman, what Labour's target was based on and how he was

going to achieve it, "there was an even more deafening silence than when he was responding to questions about the roof tax," Mr Patten said.

When Labour politicians were asked about the effect switching from coal to gas-fired power stations would have on the coal industry, "they look as if they are sucking an acid drop," he said. "I guess that is a question that Mr Scargill will be putting to them in due course."

Labour might cut CO₂ emissions because its economic policies "would end growth almost overnight", Mr Patten said. Its greenhouse plan was

"redundant of politics rather than scientific and economic analysis" and was addressing serious issues in a "frivolous and superficial way". He added: "Being concerned about the environment is about more than headlines."

Mr Patten has never attacked Labour so strongly before over a green issue. The move reflects the fact that with its more radical global warming policy, the Labour Party has for the first time become the environmental opposition — a role that has hitherto been played in Britain principally by environmental pressure groups such as Greenpeace. Mr

Patten was speaking in Luxembourg after a meeting with the European Environmental Commissioner, Signor Carlo Ruba di Meana, to explain the Government's 2005 target for CO₂ stabilization and why Britain felt unable to go along with calls to stabilize by the year 2000 from countries such as West Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark and France — with which Signor di Meana has been personally associated.

"The commissioner hoped that we might be able to bring the 2005 date forward," Mr Patten said. "I explained the amount of work and effort which had

gone into establishing 2005 as a serious target and said we would be happy to give him and his officials more information as we went along." The European Commission accepted, with Britain, that all countries needed above all to be signed up to specific measures to cope with global warming. Mr Patten said.

A serious split in the EC over the question of a community target date for stabilizing CO₂ emissions was averted in the early hours yesterday when environment ministers from the 12 member states, meeting in Luxembourg, shelved the question until October.

TONY WHITE

Convoy medals appeal

The broadcaster Ludovic Kennedy appealed yesterday to veterans of the wartime Arctic convoys, urging them to come forward to claim medals marking their courage.

During a visit to the Soviet Union last month, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, persuaded his counterpart, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, to make the medals available. They were first struck in 1985, but there was little publicity and less than half of those eligible applied before the deadline set by the Russians in 1987.

Mr Kennedy, launching the appeal on HMS Belfast in London, estimated there were thousands of veterans who could apply and he urged them to write to the Medals Section, HMS Centurion, Grange Road, Gosport, Hampshire.

Bridge record

A world record for the largest number of players competing in a bridge tournament was likely to have been created last night. The Epson World Simultaneous Pairs Tournament is expected to have attracted an entry of 100,000 players in some 70 countries.

IRA warning

A recruiting campaign aimed at young people in Dublin by subversive terrorist groups was under way, according to Father Martin Clarke, director of the Catholic Youth Council. They were exploiting high unemployment, he said.

Rape charge

Mr Steven Mertens, aged 36, who unsuccessfully stood as a Conservative candidate for Hackney council, east London, in last month's local elections, has been charged with the rape of a girl aged nine.

BRITISH Rail yesterday announced the end of the traditional "cardboard sandwich" and its replacement by a gourmet version designed by Sir Clement Freud.

The new poached salmon and corned beef and chutney sandwiches, which retail at £1.85 and £1.65 respectively, join a growing range of fillings, including cheese and pickle, roast chicken, tuna and cucumber, and roast beef.

With sales of eight million rounds a year, BR has become the nation's third largest sandwich retailer and is determined to lay to rest jokes about the "BR butty". At the unwrapping ceremony at St Pancras station, London, Sir Clement asked InterCity to design the sandwiches to his own recipe after he had complained bitterly about a cheese and pickle sandwich he had eaten on a train.

Passengers trying the new delicacies were less enamoured about their cost, however. Mrs Beryl Ashforth, from Eastwood, Nottingham, said: "You could get three tins of corned beef for the price of this sandwich."

Wreckage found

Wreckage of a fishing vessel, The Kindly Light, which disappeared in the North Sea last September has been washed up at Southwold, Suffolk. The bodies of its two crew members have never been found.

Strike off

West Yorkshire textile workers called off a strike due to start on Monday after dying and finishing companies made improved pay offers worth about 9 per cent.

Mounted patrols

Mounted police are to be introduced in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, after concern over growing late-night violence.

BR unveils the £1.85 designer sandwich

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

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Tube line works draw MPs' fire

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE prospect of the Palace of Westminster becoming cut off from the outside world for more than four years by building work on the new Jubilee line has presented its occupants with a unique conundrum.

Unlike any other group of residents surrounded by a sea of construction debris, the House of Commons does not have the right to petition itself to oppose the London Underground Bill which will enable a massive new Underground interchange system and the new line to pass through Westminster.

To get around the problem, the Commons Services Committee, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the Commons, strongly condemned the plans yesterday. It privately hopes that MPs will use the case set out in the 100-page report as ammunition against the private Bill during the Commons debate.

Plans for an interchange between the existing Tube lines and the new Jubilee extension will blight for years MPs' hopes of new offices and facilities in redeveloped buildings surrounding the Westminster Underground station.

The likely noise and disruption that might be caused by the building works in Bridge Street, Victoria Embankment and Parliament Square, and the undesirability of turning Parliament Square — the focus of much state ceremonial, and, of course, tourism — into a building site for four years, were further reasons for taking a deeply sceptical view of these proposals," the committee adds.

"We find it astonishing that neither London Underground nor the Department of Transport realized that the parts of the Bill relating to Westminster would cause considerable concern to MPs."

London Underground says the works will have "negligible effect" on access by MPs and cause only "minor disruption" to road traffic, with eight lorries an hour likely to go in and out of the site.

House of Commons Services new parliamentary building (phase 2) and the Jubilee Line proposals (Stationery Office £13.25)

Ministry fee for charity air shows condemned

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS to raise more than £20 million for former RAF personnel who suffered in the Battle of Britain were being hampered by "mean-minded" Ministry of Defence demands for payment for RAF involvement in fund-raising air shows, it was alleged yesterday.

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain, dozens of events are being held in the next few months to raise funds for the RAF Benevolent Fund, which last year paid £7.5 million to 13,000 disabled, injured or distressed former RAF personnel. Many RAF aircraft, including the Red Arrows, will be at the shows, with ground crew, security and support staff, and all have to be paid for under Treasury rules.

At the Battle of Britain Air Show at Boscombe Down, Dorset, today and tomorrow, organizers expect to have to pay about £50,000 to the Ministry of Defence. That would leave around £250,000 to be handed to the fund from admission charges from the 250,000 people expected to attend over the two days.

Mr Paul Bowen, the show's director, said: "We have more than 3,000 people who are working here free to help the

Mellor to break up 'Big Five' TV circle

By JOHN LEWIS

MR DAVID MELLOR, the Broadcasting Minister, was yesterday planning to break up the "magic circle" of five big television companies that produce most programmes for the ITV network.

The "Big Five" — Granada, LWT, Thames, Yorkshire and Central — dominate the network, covered by 15 companies. Mr Mellor has made no secret of the fact that he regards it as unfair.

He intends to put down an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill in the Lords which would give the Independent Broadcasting Commission, successor to the Independent Broadcasting Association, fall-back power to impose a networking formula on all new licence holders after they are awarded in 1992. The new networking requirements would be written into the terms of the franchises.

The 15 companies are working on their own formula and hope to produce it by the end of July. They are understood to be working on the basis that at least 10 of the companies would end up producing a significant proportion of programmes. Mr Mellor was not prepared to leave it to chance. He wanted a fall-back amendment in place by the time the Bill reached committee stage in the Lords in early July.

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Immigration heads agenda for Shamir's right-wing coalition

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

MR YITZHAK Shamir, the Prime Minister of Israel, succeeded yesterday in forming a narrow-based, right-wing Government, the first such ruling coalition since 1984.

In a ceremony broadcast live by Israel's Army Radio, Mr Shamir and his right-wing Likud bloc signed a coalition agreement as well as policy guidelines for the new Government. There was still some disagreement over Cabinet posts and this was left out of the documents.

The coalition agreement was signed between Likud and half-a-dozen religious and nationalist factions which represent 62 of Parliament's 120 members.

The agreement came only hours before the expiration of Mr Shamir's mandate from President Herzog to form a government. Parliament is

now expected to be called into session to approve a new Cabinet, possibly as early as Monday.

At the signing ceremony Mr Shamir said: "The major effort of the Government will be made on the most important issue we are facing today - the absorption of the mass immigration of Jews from the occupied territories, a move consistently rejected by Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

He added: "Together with that we will deal with all the other issues, advancing the peace process, solving economic and social problems." The hardline approach expected from the new Government was apparent in the policy guidelines that were adopted.

The guidelines emphasized "the right of Jews to settle in all parts of Greater Israel", suggesting that the Government would continue to settle

Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, initially was given the mandate to form a government, but failed when two Orthodox MPs deserted him at the eleventh hour. On April 27 Mr Shamir was empowered with the task.

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Arab polls signal mood of change

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

ELECTIONS in three Arab countries to be held over the next four days are a signal that a gentle breeze, if not yet a full wind of change, is beginning to blow from the newly-liberated nations of Eastern Europe to disturb political life in one of the world's most autocratic regions.

Tomorrow the all-male electorate in the desert sheikdom of Kuwait goes to the polls to elect two-thirds of the deputies to a new National Assembly. In Tunisia, the opposition is to boycott a controversial municipal poll, and local elections to be fought in Algeria on June 12 will be the first multi-party contest permitted there since independence in 1962.

The polls are being viewed as evidence that the defiant despotism of the most forceful of the Arab world's current leaders, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, is increasingly out of step with the mood in many of the 21 member states of the Arab League.

In addition to looking at individual results, Western governments will be watching the effect that such a concerted blast of democracy will have in a strategic region where emirs, kings and one-party dictators have held sway.

Already the vote-rigging which has long disgraced Egyptian elections is under mounting internal criticism; in Syria, President Assad has promised a loosening of emergency laws; and questions are being asked about the failure of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to live up to the promise he made on ascending the throne in 1982 to create a *majlis as-shura*, a traditional forum for consultation.

Bolder commentators in

sections of the Arab press published abroad have referred disparagingly to the existence of a number of "Arab Ceausescu's". Muslim fundamentalists, who stand to gain most from any expansion of pluralism, have been assiduously whipping up the pressure for change.

The gradual but inexorable growth in the demand for a belated introduction of *glasnost* and *perestroika* is, in the view of many diplomats, set to become the dominant theme in the Arab world over the next few years.

Much of the credit for the slow evolution from past totalitarian habits is traced to last November's election in Jordan, the first there for 22 years. Its conduct was widely regarded as free despite the absence of legalized parties, and it was followed by the establishment of one of the liveliest parliaments seen in the Middle East outside the Israeli Knesset.

The pro-democracy movement in Kuwait began to attract attention at the same time as the Jordanian poll. In a country of just two million people where shortages are unknown and education and medical care is free, it has since escalated to a degree that few can have had to be used to put down demonstrations.

Mr Eric Goldstein, research director of the American-based human rights group Middle East Watch, noted: "As the Emir of Kuwait has discovered, overflowing supermarkets do not always prevent people from demanding political rights. After what has happened in Eastern Europe, and what is beginning to happen in some Arab countries, even Iraq no longer looks impervious to change."

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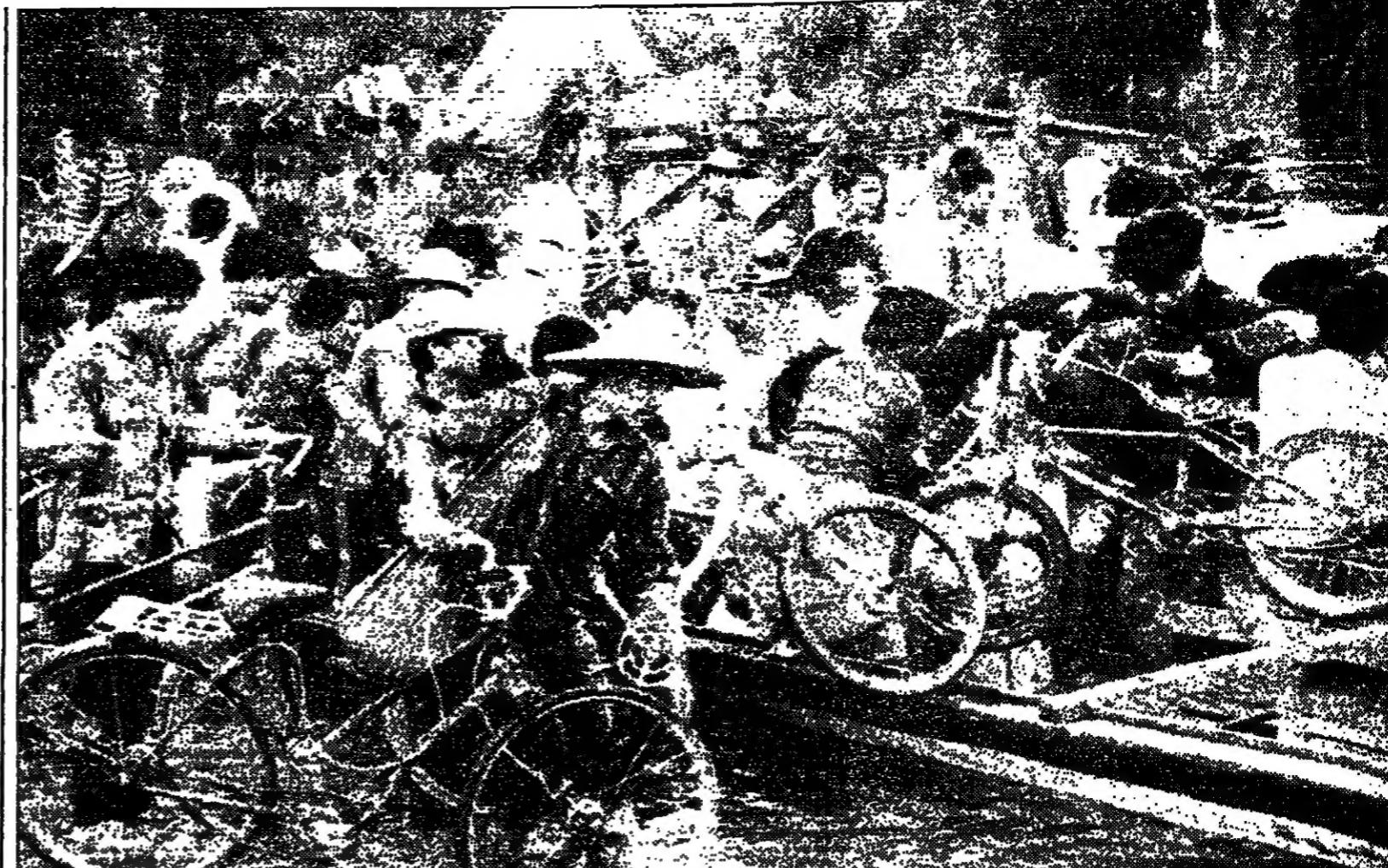
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Soviet immigrants in the occupied West Bank despite strong international opposition. The new Government would also continue to oppose creation of an independent Palestinian state and would not negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization. But the guidelines called for talks with Palestinians from the occupied territories, a move consistently rejected by Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel has been in political

disarray since March 15, when the previous ruling coalition between Likud and the Labour Party collapsed in disagreement over how to proceed with the Middle East peace process.

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"the right of Jews to settle in all parts of Greater Israel", suggesting that the Government would continue to settle

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Protests as the pubs shut their doors for Czech election day

FROM ANNE McELVOY AND RICHARD BASSETT IN PRAGUE

THE Friends of Beer party has already registered its protest at the "undemocratic decision redundant of the Communists". So have the legions of Prague workers — in mutterings and hand-on-the-forehead gestures of disbelief — who were dismayed to discover that as polling began yesterday, the pubs closed to make sure that no one was distracted from their democratic duty.

Voting began slowly in the centre of the city with the crowds more concerned with their weekend shopping and queuing for advance tickets for the most popular film in town: *Emmanuelle*, informatively subtitled "sex film" for the uninitiated.

In the last public statement before polling the prominent Civic Forum candidate and deputy finance minister, Mr Walt Komarek, complained that it had "degenerated into animosity and hysteria".

He warned that the new enemy of democracy in Czechoslovakia was not "the old mafia" but the continuing smear campaigns against politicians accused of having collaborated with the secret police, and called on the main parties to put their bitterness behind them and prepare to form a coalition.

Campaigning was stopped two days ago but the most effective anti-communist statement, the historical exhibition on the columns and shop windows of the main street, Na Triske, was still drawing crowds anxious for a last glimpse of the old mafia they are leaving behind.

The voters are clearly heading to the polls fired by the opportunity to avenge the past. "Today is about putting the lid on the coffin of these people," said Mrs Jane Caslava, an assistant in one of the shops which has opened up its window space for the exhibition.

On the parapet above, the cardboard head of Mr Vasil Blak, the man suspected of inviting the Soviet troops to invade Czechoslovakia and

arrested for questioning this week, has been decapitated.

Special sniggers were reserved for the picture of the former leader, Mr Gustav Husak who, it is recorded, announced 10 years ago with unsuspecting prescience that "the eighties are not going to be easy".

The deposed Mr Husak was voting in Bratislava, although unwilling to supply details of the time and place he intended to cast his own free vote.

President Havel, by contrast, had difficulty even reaching the ballot box through the throng in the Prague school where he cast his vote, his only competitor in the popularity stakes in the city this weekend being the American singer, Paul Simon, who is acting as an observer when he can escape the pursuing autograph-hunters.

In the Communist Party headquarters the mood was glum, despite the hasty change of hammer and sickle for the vacuous new logo of a bunch of cherries. Most of their posters have in any case been scrawled over with the message "Do not eat". Even the leader of the socialist party, Mr Jiri Vysadil, cast his vote telling the reporters that he had "modest hopes".

Exiled Czechs from Germany, Austria and across the Atlantic have been returning to exercise their right to vote. With no voting allowed in embassies abroad, they have to turn up in person in the country of their birth.

In Bratislava, the expected Canadian turnout is more than a hundred, while Czechoslovaks living in southern, East and West Germany simply popped across the open borders to the nearest polling stations to cast their votes.

Two hundred international observers kept a low profile impressed by what one American senator called "the high political awareness" of the Czechs. In Prague where a score of central polling stations opened at 1 pm, by 3 pm, more than half of those

on the electoral rolls had voted in a quiet business-like way. Here, there were none of the queues or confusing ballot papers of Romania or uncontrolled emotions of East Germany. Instead, as if free elections had been part of their everyday existence under the communists, Czechs took part in the democratic process with song froid.

Undeterred by thunderstorms and pouring rain, most of the Czechs in Prague's first district took an hour off work to vote early. Hotels and shops along with restaurants were deserted by 2 pm. Most of those encountered leaving the polling stations said they had voted for the Civic Forum which seized power after the revolution last November.

In Prague's poorer fifth district of Smichov, a rundown area dominated by grim brick breweries erected in the last century inhabited largely by gypsies, the majority of voters said they supported the communists.

"Under the communists we were badly treated but at least we were not attacked in the streets," said one gypsy woman going to the polling station referring to the recent spate of assaults by punks and skinheads on gypsies near Wenceslaus Square.

In Slovakia, initial reports suggested voting was proceeding in an equally orderly fashion. From outlying districts near the Soviet frontier, there are reports of confusion in the voting procedure but by late afternoon yesterday there had not been any criticism of the procedure from any of the 23 parties taking part.

Under the new Czechoslovak electoral law, parties will have to win at least 5 per cent of the vote to qualify for seats in parliament. Though the Christian Democratic Union is expected to do well in Slovakia, despite last minute attempts by the Civic Forum to discredit them, no one doubts that Civic Forum will be reconfirmed as the government.

Villagers vote with joy and foreboding

From PETER GREEN
IN CERNOSICE
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

STANDING outside the Slaná restaurant in this small summer resort 12 miles from Prague, Mrs Kvetoslava Kubickova had no doubts. "It's a beautiful feeling," she said. "I can vote for whoever I want to again."

Miss Monika Soukupova, aged 21, a chemistry student, agreed as she walked to the polling booth. "I'm very happy it is a free election; the first time in my life I vote," she said. "I am going to vote Civic Forum because I am a student and it's our revolution."

Yesterday and today, for the first time in 44 years, Miss Soukupova, Mrs Kubickova, and nearly 10 million other Czechoslovaks are voting freely to elect their Parliament. For many in this small village, once an elegant vacation spot for Prague's upper crust, the elections are as much a referendum on last November's velvet revolution as they are the chance to put right the damage done to their town by 41 years of Communist rule.

"Cernosice is going down

the drain, but I am voting for Civic Forum because I hope we can rebuild this town to what it once was," Mrs Kvetoslava said, as she served ice cream to village children.

The once elegant holiday villas which dot the hillsides and river banks have been subdivided into minuscule apartments, the *fin de siècle* facades are crumbling, the streets are pot-holed, and the shops are drab. As the polls opened at 2 pm, pensioners and housewives were the first to stand in line outside the two restaurants which service the town's polling stations.

"We are afraid of the economic changes, but still we are very glad for the revolution," said Mr Frantisek Cvrk, a pensioner aged 77, as he waited to vote with his wife, Bozena. During the voting bars and taverns are prohibited from selling anything stronger than lager. A pair of lorry drivers sat grimly sipping coffee in Cernosice's only bar.

"It's certain that we will lose some money, but that's a small price to pay for democracy," said Mr David Vondracek, barman at the Hotel Kazin.

Not only local residents came to vote. "I think it's wonderful. That's why I'm here," said Miss Katalina Kohoutova, who has lived in the United States for the past three years. Authorities are expecting 100,000 people like Miss Kohoutova to return home to vote and every polling station has extra bal-

lots for returning emigrants, who need only show their passport.

An exit poll of 50 voters showed Civic Forum far ahead. But here, as in other provincial towns, voters complained that candidates had not made themselves known. "You get a big stack of papers with all these names. It's like the old days because you still don't know who the candidates are," said Mrs Eva Kubova, a shop assistant in the town's one sweet shop. "If any party was serious, instead of putting up all those expensive posters, they'd use the money to open a hospital and then I'd vote."

• PILSEN: The elections succeeded in achieving what Allied bombs failed to do in the Second World War — stopping the flow of the beer that made this city world famous. In order to satisfy their thirst for democracy, the Government decreed that during polling hours bars throughout the country could serve only weak beer. Some bars and restaurants closed. Others brought in bottles of weak beer for those unable to wait for the end of polling. (Reuters)

Indian ban

Calcutta — The Indian state of West Bengal has ordered a blanket ban on foreign devotees of the Hindu Ananda Marga sect visiting the state, in what appears to be a row between the ruling left-wingers and the sect. (AFP)

For these men, this is an election issue. They say that

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public services and utilities were raised by 30 per cent and basic grains by an average 20 per cent. "The social cost is much less than it would be if we had not made the adjustment. Without it we would have entered into an inflationary process and massive layoffs of public employees would have been required," he said. (Reuters)

But people are still angry. They say: "Since the fall of Zivkov (Mr Todor Zivkov who ruled for 35 years) last November, we have had the right to change our names back — but it is expensive and time-consuming. You have to go through the court. Why can't we just get new identity cards in the same way we were given them in 1984?"

The announcement came a little more than a week after Señor Calderón announced an economic adjustment programme aimed at cutting the public deficit and simplifying tax structures.

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Reform
party
poised
for win
Bulgaria

Soviet deal for nuclear free Germany to join Nato

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

IN RETURN for an agreement that all nuclear weapons will be removed from German soil, the Soviet Union is ready to accept that a united Germany can be a full member of Nato, diplomatic sources said.

The offered *quid pro quo* would exploit the existing argument within the Alliance about the future of its nuclear deterrent. Mrs Thatcher firmly told the spring meeting of the Nato foreign ministers in Turnberry on Thursday that the deployment of nuclear weapons in Germany was vital to the defence of Europe. Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, on the other hand, has repeatedly warned that "a new nuclear build-up would be dangerous for Germany and European unity".

There is already practical agreement that no nuclear weapons or Nato troops can be based on what is presently East German territory. Herr Markus Meckel, the East German Foreign Minister, who will chair the next "two plus four" meeting on reunification on June 22, has now suggested that his country, with Czechoslovakia and Hungary, could become a demilitarized, neutral zone.

He is likely to press this idea at the meeting, when the military and political aspects of reunification are to be discussed. The Soviet Union has for a long time wanted to see West Germany denazified, and down the years has successfully played on fears here that all of Germany would become the superpower's atomic battlefield in the event of a nuclear war.

Herr Genscher, from the tiny Free Democrats, knows that his party would have widespread support if he tried to stop the Alliance basing in West Germany a new generation of airborne nuclear missiles favoured by President Bush and Mrs Thatcher.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the Christian Democrat West German Chancellor, has so far not asked for nuclear weapons to be withdrawn, although one

of his closest advisers has said that the Chancellor wants to set the number held by Nato reduced to a minimum so that they can be removed from Germany.

Herr Karsten Voigt, the foreign affairs spokesman of the opposition Social Democrats, has already said that all nuclear weapons should be removed from German soil if the united country is to be part of Nato. Even then he regards this as only a transitional stage until a new pan-European security structure evolves.

The debate is just getting under way within the Alliance, with planners trying to decide how to defend Europe with a smaller army and a different kind of nuclear deterrent, which is still seen by Nato commanders as essential, for a number of reasons.

One important reason is to make sure that America stays closely involved in Europe by stationing a considerable force on the continent. West Germany believes the present 250,000 American troops here could eventually be reduced to just 40,000, which would still be enough to ensure US involvement in any future conflict. There is real concern, however, that, without a "nuclear umbrella" to protect its garrison, Washington would cut its presence to a mere token force.

Another reason is the fear that instability in East Europe or the Soviet Union could end with the Soviet nuclear weapons there being captured by an untrustworthy regime.

British and American thinking is that it is safe to leave present East German territory as a denazified area, but that it would be quite wrong to make a special case of West Germany and not use it as a forward base for whatever kind of atomic weapon is deployed in future.

Herr Genscher hopes that the pace of change in the East will eventually make the argument superfluous. He believes that the need for nuclear weapons will just simply fade away.

• **Election agreement:** The three Western allies who govern West Berlin - Britain, France and the United States - agreed at Turnberry yesterday to prepare the documents necessary to allow direct elections there. At the next general election, West Berliners will be able, for the first time, to vote for their representatives in the federal Bundestag.

• **FBI arrest just 'tip of the iceberg'**

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

THE FBI has arrested a former US Army sergeant in Tampa, Florida, and charged him with working for a West German-based spy network said to have passed so much sensitive information to Warsaw Pact nations that it "endangered the entire defence capability of the West".

The arrest of Mr Roderick James Ramsay, aged 28, was described by Mr Larry Curtin, an FBI spokesman, as "just the tip of the iceberg". According to ABC television news, the FBI is tracking at least a dozen other people following the conviction for treason in West Germany on Wednesday of a former army sergeant, Clyde Lee Conrad, who was imprisoned for life for passing secret to Hungarian and Czechoslovak agents.

• **Terror given up**

Boos - Frau Susanne Albrecht, aged 39, arrested in East Germany in connection with a 1977 murder in West Germany, probably renounced terrorism in the late 1970s. "Our information says Albrecht has nothing more to do with the terrorist scene," a West German spokesman said. (Reuters)

• **Punjab leader**

Delhi - The coalition Government of Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the Prime Minister, has appointed Mr Virendra Varma, a member of the upper house in Parliament, to be the governor of the troubled Punjab. (AFP)

• **Jungle warfare**

Huancayo, Peru - A battle between at least 1,000 members of the Ashaninkas and 200 members of the Campos jungle tribes armed with arrows, spears, machetes and poison darts left at least 48 dead. (AP)

• **Yacht released**

Havana - Authorities in Cuba have released the Bellesguard Queen, the British-registered yacht detained for allegedly entering the country's territorial waters illegally. (Reuters)

• **Mayor heckled**

Hong Kong - Mr Zhu Rongji, the Mayor of Shanghai, was heckled by about 20 students shouting "China has buried the truth" when he arrived here to promote investment in China. (Reuters)

• **Greek oil spill**

Neapolis, Greece - An oil slick 12 miles long and 40 yards wide, spilled by an unknown vessel, is threatening holiday beaches near here, the coastguard said. (Reuters)

• **Bomb kills child**

Bogota - A bomb aimed at a Colombian police patrol killed a child and injured at least three people near the cocaine centre of Medellin. (Reuters)



Question time: President Bush keeps his chin up as he ponders an answer to a question from a student at a Chicago school while more hands are raised to gain his attention. Mr Bush read part of a book to the children and told them: "If you want to be a President, learn to read."

Moscow fails to contain violence

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN MOSCOW

AS THE number of dead in the week-long ethnic conflict between Kirghiz and Uzbeks reached 78 yesterday, the President of Uzbekistan declared a state of emergency in the Andizhan region, saying that the violence was spilling over into his republic from neighbouring Kirghizia.

In the main square at Frunze, capital of Kirghizia, thousands of people gathered yesterday to mourn the victims of the fighting. The clashes erupted on Monday night as Kirghiz and Uzbeks fought pitched battles for possession of land on the outskirts of the town of Osh.

Yesterday Mr Islam Karimov, the Uzbek President, said there was a real danger of the events in the Osh region "degenerating into a conflict between the two republics". He appealed to President Gorbachev to send more troops to restore order, as well as an investigating commission.

Foreign journalists were yesterday informed by the Foreign Ministry that Kirghizia was closed to the press. Uzbekistan is already closed to Moscow-based journalists. The Soviet Tass news agency reported from Osh yesterday that the fighting was continuing despite heavy Soviet troop presence, and that 15,000 Uzbeks had gathered on the border in a bid to break through an army cordon to head for Osh.

Tass said troops had fired into the air, but gave no indication that soldiers had fired at the crowd, as had happened at the beginning of the disturbances. The agency said that 100 student protesters from Frunze had been allowed to fly to Osh to see for themselves that the authorities were "doing their best" to contain the violence.

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Russian welcome for reformist Patriarch

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

RUSSIANS looking to the Orthodox Church for leadership, reacted with joy yesterday to the election at Zagorsk of the reform-minded Metropolitan Aleksii of Leningrad as the new Russian Orthodox Patriarch before Tallinn as bishop and then archbishop, or metropolitan. As Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod since 1988, he has been an active public figure, demanding a greater church role in charity and social work, and becoming a "political priest" standing successfully as a candidate in elections to the Congress of

People's Deputies last year. Radical Christian activists, such as Aleksandr Ogorodnikov, hoped the new Patriarch would lead the Church away from its long "subservience" to the state, and elaborate a new doctrine implementing church-state separation.

Born Alexei Ridiger, the new Patriarch served first as a parish priest before becoming Dean of Tartu in the 1950s, and then moving to Tallinn as bishop and then archbishop, or metropolitan. As Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod since 1988, he has been an active public figure, demanding a greater church role in charity and social work, and becoming a "political priest" standing successfully as a candidate in elections to the Congress of

People's Deputies last year. Radical Christian activists, such as Aleksandr Ogorodnikov, hoped the new Patriarch would lead the Church away from its long "subservience" to the state, and elaborate a new doctrine implementing church-state separation.

After decades of persecution, the Church now plays a central role in Soviet public life, with Christian symbols and images dominating magazines and art exhibitions. Soviet television has given extensive coverage to this week's patriarchal election process, and is to broadcast tomorrow's enthronement.

He said: "It is only logical that we should continue to use this weapon of struggle. In all its principal elements, the apartheid system is still in place. We are still ruled by a white minority Government."

The deputy president of the African National Congress said that although "encouraged" by President de Klerk's lifting of the state of emergency in most of South Africa and freezing of more political prisoners, sanctions must be maintained, "given the fact that apartheid has not ended".

He said: "It is only logical that we should continue to use this weapon of struggle. In all its principal elements, the apartheid system is still in place. We are still ruled by a white minority Government."

Mr Mandela had to cancel an appointment at the International Committee of the Red Cross because he was exhausted. But he resumed his schedule after a rest in his hotel room where he was visited by his personal doctor.

"I feel on top of the world," he said as he left the hotel for a lunch at the International Labour Conference. "I am well," he declared.

Mr Mandela told the conference that "the road we still have to travel to arrive at the liberation of our people is not too long. Those who imposed themselves on us as governors openly admit their grand design has failed, and say white minority rule must end".

Central to the democratic perspective, he added, was the fundamental principle of one person-one vote on a common non-racial voters' roll. Life for millions in South Africa was still misery and deprivation.

There would have to be massive international intervention so that the economy could meet the needs of all. The world also had a special responsibility ensuring "democratic institutions were put in place so racial tyranny did not raise its ugly head again".

• **Johannesburg:** A black police sergeant on his way to work was shot in the back of the head and killed instantly in Nuzuma township, outside Durban in Natal province (writes Ray Kennedy). Earlier in the week, Denmark politely turned down a request for observer status for a prominent Lithuanian MP because there was not the "necessary consensus" among CSCE states.

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Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, said yesterday that the Administration had not yet decided whether to break off dialogue with the PLO because of its failure to condemn the raid.

He told a news conference at the end of a Nato ministerial meeting in Turnberry, Scotland: "When we are satisfied we know all we need to know, we will act in a way which reflects our commitment to promoting peace but being resolute in condemning terrorism."

Mandela insists on keeping sanctions

FROM ALAN MCGREGOR
IN GENEVA

A FATIGUED Mr Nelson Mandela cancelled one of his appointments here yesterday, but later rose from his bed to urge the international community to maintain sanctions against South Africa.

The PLO denied responsibility and filed a motion asking the court to dismiss the complaint. It argued that US courts do not have jurisdiction over the organization and that the PLO has immunity from lawsuits filed in America. Denying the PLO's motion, US District Judge Louis Stanton said the PLO was present in New York. It owned a building in Manhattan, had a bank account, maintained a number of permanent employees in New York, owned a car and had a telephone listing.

The judge rejected the argument that the PLO was a state and thus protected by international law. "Although it claims the attributes of a state, it controls no defined territory or populace and is not recognized by the United States," he said. "Rather, as its name indicates, the PLO is an organization."

Although the PLO has observer status at the United Nations, the US does not give it diplomatic recognition and the organization's presence in the US has been vigorously opposed by its critics.

Since then the Bush Administration has opened a dialogue at official level with the PLO, but the continuation of the dialogue is in doubt after the attempted raid on Israeli beaches last week by Palestine Liberation Front gunmen.

Both the US and British Governments have called on the PLO to condemn the attack and to take action against any of its members involved. Mr Arafat said his organization had no role in the beach raid, but refused to condemn it.

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• **AIR FREIGHT WAREHOUSE**

nr. LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT

URGENT PUBLIC AUCTION

Distinct Order Executed by the Court Appointed Bailiff

District Court Judgment Landgericht Düsseldorf

SEIZED VALUABLE ASSETS

A Large Confiscated Stock of

PERSIAN & EASTERN

Handmade Carpets, Rugs & Corridors

Including Meshed, Kirman, Nain, Bidjar, Kashan, Hamadan, Najafabad, Fazehabad, Djemshid, Afshar, Kuder, Karak

Hotbeds of hatred

Clifford Longley

No one seems to know how to make a bad person good. Many a parent of errant youth has agonized into the night, and many a theory has shaped world history according to the truth or otherwise of its answers. The Home Office is agonizing afresh over the problem in the wake of the Strangeways riot, as the inquiry under Lord Justice Woolf gradually turns into a practical and philosophical examination of the basis of British penal policy. The Woolf inquiry may become a landmark in social history, for by its attitudes towards its deviants and law-breakers, a society defines its attitudes towards itself. These attitudes are overdue for re-evaluation.

Britain imprisons a higher proportion of its population in worse conditions than almost any other country in Europe. It is not an attractive self-image. Public opinion is more vengeful and vindictive towards criminals than elsewhere, but this may not be because the British are a more unforgiving people by temperament — the evidence suggests otherwise — but because they know no alternative that works, and despair of finding one. The most primitive response to infringement of a social code is the infliction of suffering to gratify the baser instincts. People will always fall back on this if they lack faith in anything more sophisticated.

Penal policy reflects the moral philosophy on which the cohesion of the nation is founded. Unmistakably, most of the key elements in that philosophy as it has been received here from past generations come from the Christian doctrine of sin and redemption.

Few races are as theologically illiterate as the British, and one of the consequences is that we have lost touch with the roots of our moral culture. If we cannot remember how it was supposed to work, we certainly cannot analyse and adapt it. But few nations can match Britain in thinking of the past as a foreign country, and our abandonment of the old religious world-view goes a long way to explain this cultural bafflement.

The medieval system of justice, heavily reliant on the theology of scholasticism, believed that suffering balanced the scales of justice, so restoring the social equilibrium. This was the public dimension, the proper business of the state. Suffering was also thought to have redemptive qualities, as in the concept of penance, and this was the private dimension, the proper work of the church. The due suffering would, it was thought, not only balance the books, but reform the moral character of the culprit.

Protestants emphasized the idea that suffering would heighten the individual's awareness of his dependence on God, and this revelation of one's moral wretchedness was supposed to lead to radical conversion from sin. Thus it was appropriate to

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

It is a shaming thing to reach the age when, there being no BBC Radio 1, you finally switch from Radio 1 to Radio 2. But there is something more shaming listening to Radio 2 and believing it is Radio 1.

Two sad milestones. I reached the first recently, in bed, with Radio 1 on my clock radio. The synthesized drum-machine smashed its blind percussion into the unmetaphysical plastic disco hit — and something snapped. I lunged at it, and reprogrammed the auto-select to Radio 2. Derek Jameson was just handing over to Judith Chalmers...

Chalmers: "What are you going to do now, Derek?"

Jameson: "I'm going down to a place near Brighton, to open a new community health centre."

Chalmers: "Are you into health, Derek, keeping yourself fit, and all that sort of thing?"

Jameson: "No, I'm the world's worst advertisement for that sort of thing. But I'm all in favour of community health centres."

Chalmers: "Indeed, yes, I think we are all, Derek."

Aargh! But it got me out of bed, fast.

Daily chores crowded in, and soon I had forgotten about the way an era had ended for me, that morning. Now comes the really humiliating bit. On the Friday, I listened to a popular music programme on Radio 2 for nearly an hour, believing it was the week's chartbusters on Radio 1. It was *Sound of the Sixties*. Well, it sounded like Radio 1. It was the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, The Who — groovy material, oh yes — none of your Abba or Seekers.

And they were interviewing a rock star. The name didn't ring a bell, but it sounded up-to-the-minute stuff. All about what the kids these days want... it could well have been broadcast live. The sound quality was impeccable. They could have been in the room with me. They sounded like today's people.

Then, interview over, the DJ said: "That was 27 years ago. Straight from the archives. Pretty good recording, I think you'll agree."

I'm sorry, but I object to that. If something's old, it ought to sound old. Where was the crackle and hiss? Where was the top-loss and attenuation of bass frequency which betrays a recording as "archive"?

The past is the past, damn it. I want my old photographs sepia-tinted; I want my old films black and white. I want the people to walk jerkily and speeded-up — as people used to, didn't they? I want my old sound archives to sound tinny. Where is nostalgia without the crackle? Where is history without the hiss? I do not wish to come face-to-face with the past, please, except through a glass, darkly — or a scratched lens, at least. It's disorientating. The past is over and I want that made very clear.

Technology is on the verge of spoiling the distinction. Do you realize that we are moving into a century that will be able to summon us up with no crackle or hiss at all? Our voices and faces may float in 30th-century air just as now, full, undistorted.

We will be with them, poor blighters, in a way King Alfred can never be with us. It remains only to discover how properly to project three-dimensional images, and our great-great-grandchildren will be able to walk all around Mrs Thatcher at school, lucky things.

The May edition of *Scientific American* offers an extract from its issue of May 1890: "A loan association in this city recently invited a number of persons to hear a speech by the celebrated English statesman Mr Gladstone. A phonographic cylinder was produced... and when the cylinder was put through the phonograph machine a voice was heard, said to be Mr Gladstone's. The message was short and rather dry. It related to self-help and thrift, both of which are very desirable qualities, according to Mr Gladstone."

Anxious to buck up the spirits of an old friend with whom she enjoys doing business, Mrs Thatcher consoled him: "Well, it was a successful summit." Even here the Soviet leader seemed less than sure of himself: "Do you really think so?" he asked. Mrs Thatcher repeated her assurances. Then he told her, partly joking: "I don't feel at home here. This is the president's office, and that is a new institution. I have not worked out how it works."

Mrs Thatcher, however, was clearly at her most confident. During her event-packed day, she made a telephone call home by Comstar, the joint British-Soviet telephone company, to her former

John Hands believes the new Russian patriarch has to assert his independence of the state

Orthodoxy that must not conform

Tomorrow, in a four-hour ceremony of Byzantine pomp and splendour in Moscow's Epiphany Cathedral, Metropolitan Alexei of Leningrad will be enthroned as the new patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church. Despite his Estonian aristocratic background, the 61-year-old Alexei has outspokenly supported successive Soviet governments, and was undoubtedly Mr Gorbachov's preferred candidate.

An opinion poll published in *Moscow News* recently showed that 64.3 per cent of those questioned trust the church but only 28.3 per cent trust the government. Russians are flocking back to the eternal certainties of their church, at a time when communist ideology has collapsed along with the denial of dignity, and hence powerlessness, of the prisoner. The message he was once intended to draw from this treatment was that he is nothing because God is all. The message he now derives from it is that he is nothing, and that is all. It is a message of hopelessness.

Penal practice has also developed an ad hoc system of social control by means of rewards and punishments, so that good behaviour gains privileges, and ultimately, early release. Though it sounds Pavlovian, this system is designed to appeal to the prisoner's rational self-interest rather than his conditioned reflexes, and it stems from the need to contain and control an otherwise unmanageable community of prisoners. It owes little to any philosophical insight into the cultivation of virtue and suppression of vice, and even a model prisoner may leave prison more corrupted than when he entered it.

Suffering can have a transforming power, but there is no simple connection between cause and effect. Humiliation is a well-known religious technique, for it can transform the personality, but equally it can destroy the personality altogether.

Penal policy should move in the other direction, based on realistic psychological theories not reliant on theological premises no longer generally believed. Modern theory (and theology) concerning character development emphasizes the need to give people control over their lives, to reinforce rather than undermine personal dignity, so that the capacity to behave responsibly can grow. Those who are loved may learn to love; those denied love learn only how to hate.

The British penal system says very loudly and clearly that those who do time are outcasts from the human community and have given up the right to dignity. The new message should be the very opposite: that even those who have infringed grievously have not extinguished all that is of value in themselves. Above all, that small streak of human worth must be preserved and nurtured until it outweighs the rest. Those who have never experienced proper treatment before should experience it in prison. That way, now, lies redemption.

Something useful may yet come out of the hours of negotiation. The debate has again focused attention on the importance of standardizing plant, animal and human health control measures at a high level in time for the single market in 1992. One of the reasons Mr Gummer may have found the other member states less sympathetic in Brussels this week than the various domestic pressures on the participants.

There is some truth in the view that listeria in cheese, salmonella in eggs and nitrates in water are more evident here than elsewhere in the EC because our surveillance techniques are better and consumer pressure groups more active.

The same problems exist abroad, but often attract less attention. It would be a pity if Britain's rather grudging acceptance of the need for tougher controls to stop the spread of BSE across frontiers were to weaken our ability to argue the case for the highest animal health and welfare standards generally in the Community.

Most scientists now agree that BSE is attributable to the animal

country would like to see our stringent anti-rabies laws relaxed, even though many foreign vets and governments think British quarantining regulations are excessively severe and, given the efficacy of modern anti-rabies vaccination, no longer strictly justified scientifically.

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president of the church's foreign department. No church appointments were made, or church legislation passed, without his approval. Those who opposed the repression were dismissed. The most noteworthy of these was Metropolitan Nikolai of Krutitsy, who died shortly afterwards in mysterious circumstances.

Despite, or perhaps because of, the weakness of the church leadership, there has been a strong tradition of spirituality at the grassroots of the Russian Orthodox Church, with the role of the *stavitsi*, the inspirational holy men, being taken by those uncompromised monks and lay activists returned from the labour camps. The new patriarch will need to tap this tradition if he is to solve the gigantic problems that confront him. He must give moral leadership and hope to his 60 million followers. He must reform a deeply conservative church that has experienced no Reformation. He must curb an excess of nationalism that spills over into anti-Semitism, and must face the loss of 4,000 of his 7,000 parishes, which were seized in 1946 from the Ukrainian Catholic Church. But he can do none of these things from a position of subservience to the state.

John Hands is the author of *Perestroika Christi*, to be published by Simon & Schuster on August 20.

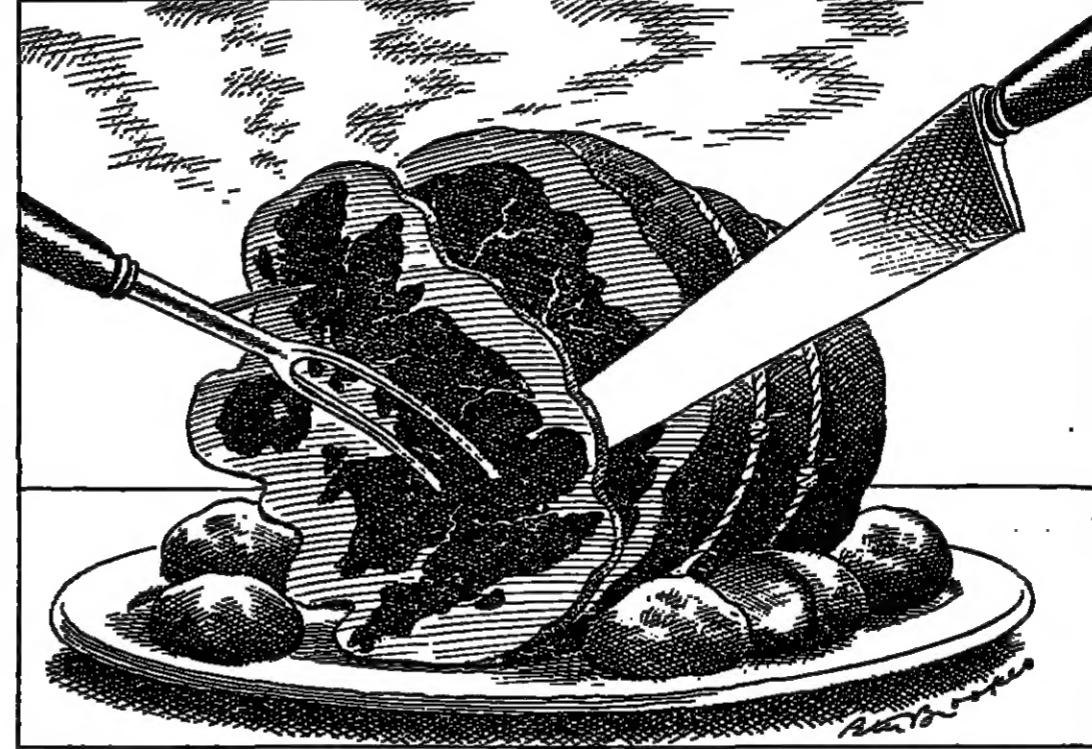
enthroned tomorrow) confirming rumours that the "celibate" Pimen had left a mistress and two children in Rostov.

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Britain's farmers carved up — but others do the same

Michael Hornsby asks why BSE has not been found in cattle elsewhere in the European Community



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MISSION TO MOSCOW

The British Prime Minister exchanged toasts with the Soviet President in Moscow yesterday just as the West German Chancellor arrived in Washington to be feted by the American President. Mr Bush and Herr Kohl are Mrs Thatcher's allies, people with whom she has to watch her manners. Mr Gorbachov has come to hold a special place in her heart. With him, she can be as frank as he likes to be with her — almost a latter-day Ronald Reagan.

If one subject was bound to dominate Mrs Thatcher's formal agenda, it was Germany. Since Mr Gorbachov and Herr Kohl proclaimed the right of all nations to self-determination exactly a year ago in Bonn, the Soviet President has been unable even to retard German reunification. As it became clear to Herr Kohl that help from America was indispensable if the Soviet garrison in East Germany were to be eased out painlessly, so Mr Bush saw that he needed the new Germany's friendship at almost any price. By contrast, Mrs Thatcher was a relatively late convert to the desirability, if not the fact, of a unitary and sovereign German state. For a few tense weeks earlier this year, her doubts about future German reliability were reflected in Mr Gorbachov's opposition to the inclusion of the new Germany in the Atlantic Alliance.

This phase of uncertainty lasted only until the subtle arguments of her Foreign Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, persuaded her that Britain's interest lay in using such influence as it possessed in Moscow to secure from Mr Gorbachov the best possible terms for Soviet acceptance of the new Germany. If she could secure for her allies the diplomatic prize of Soviet blessing for a united Germany's full membership of Nato, the West Germans would surely accept all the conditions of membership. To Mrs Thatcher, these included her current fixation, the stationing of the new generation of tactical air-launched nuclear missiles "forward" on German soil.

For whatever reason, that prize appears to have been withheld. Whether the talks in Moscow yesterday would yield anything so spectacular was always doubtful, not least because Mr Gorbachov's mind was on other things. Soviet politics is moving at a headlong

pace. Guests from the West can be only spectators wandering inadvertently on stage at the denouement of an ancient, incomprehensible drama. Even as the two leaders talked yesterday, the Russian Supreme Soviet supported its president, Mr Boris Yeltsin, declaring that Russian laws should henceforth take precedence over Soviet ones. Mrs Thatcher's task at this summit was quite as much to listen to her host as it was to convince him.

With miners in the Soviet coalfields preparing to strike, and with the much-heralded economic master-plan rejected by the Ukraine, Byelorussia and now by Russia, there is no end in sight to Mr Gorbachov's domestic tribulations. But it is the Soviet Communist Party congress next month — at which no result, not even self-dissolution, can now be ruled out — which may have the greatest political either to make or break Mr Gorbachov.

Mrs Thatcher knows from her own experience that a leader can survive any number of near-disasters, provided his power base remains loyal and his will strong. Mr Gorbachov has been preparing the ground for the coming congress over many months, but his plans may go awry. Any hint of his own assessment of his political life expectancy which Mrs Thatcher's antennae may have picked up could be invaluable.

This visit began with speculation about a Soviet attempt to drive a wedge between Washington and London over the British nuclear deterrent. Mrs Thatcher and Mr Hurd have vigorously discouraged such talk; but doubts persist about what has really been going on in the Soviet-American disarmament negotiations.

Mr Gorbachov may have lifted the veil on strategic mysteries about which she may have been imperfectly informed by the Americans. But if he cannot surmount the next few months of troubles at home, any deals, formal or informal, struck with him by Western visitors are so much hot air. It would be a great mistake to underrate the shrewdness and tenacity of this leader of "all the Soviets". It would also be a mistake to overrate his longevity in power.

PROFESSIONAL FOUL

Less than two weeks after winning promotion to the Football League's first division, Swindon Town have been relegated to the third. The club admitted to the league's management committee all 36 charges levelled against it of making illegal payments to its players. Not only is this always a serious offence but the case involving Swindon was a singularly grave one. The club cheated systematically for four years in the course of winning its cherished first division place.

The recent history of Swindon has been illustrious. After being sustained for many years by the railways, it exemplified the golden age of Thatcherism, becoming one of the fastest growing business centres in Europe. Six months ago, it had so many job vacancies that it launched a campaign to recruit workers from the north. Yesterday, however, the flag on the town hall was flying at half mast.

A town needs more than prosperity to attract inward investment, executives, workers and their families. It needs to develop its infrastructure, and it also needs what passes in a city for a soul. Some industrial centres in the USA's northern states have found a symphony orchestra the key to respectability, and thus to economic success. Others have boosted their universities, their theme parks, their zoos. A football club with winning ways has played a similar role in the aspirations of many British cities, hence the drift from fame of such clubs as Blackpool, Bolton and Preston and the rise of Norwich, Luton and Southampton, often on the back of local money and enthusiasm. A great team mirrors the town's prosperity and ambition. Sociological researchers have long found that industrial productivity goes up when the local football team triumphs on Saturday.

It was hardly surprising, therefore, that the busily expanding Wiltshire town of Swindon should look to its football club to "do it proud". Until this week, the club had more than lived up to such expectations. From

EPISCOPAL HANDICAP

Here is a lamentable state of affairs. The call-over at William Hill on the choice of a new Archbishop of Canterbury (an irreverent business anyway) was abruptly suspended this week when so many substantial bets poured in on the Bishop of St Albans that the bookies got scared. The Bishop himself, the Rt Rev John Taylor, said firmly though perhaps a shade too obviously, "I am not a horse". None the less, before the bookmakers got the wind up, his odds had been slashed from 10-1 to the top spot at 5-2.

For those whose acquaintance with bets and odds is slight, such a concerted rush to put money on an outsider usually indicates some kind of sharp practice. Either a well-backed nag has been nobbyled, or a former Derby winner has had a coat of paint applied by way of disguise and then carelessly been left out in the rain. At the very least, someone has learnt — "mind, I've said nothing," the Irish would say — that a particular mount will not be trying too hard, or at least his jockey will not be.

As the Bishop of St Albans pointed out, he is not a horse. Even if he were, no suspicion could possibly attach to him. The only explanation of the rush to get money on him is that somebody has got hold of inside information, and plans to profit by it. But since the decision on the Archbishop's successor is weeks, if not months, away, we understand that there can be little inside information by which to profit.

Admirers of P. G. Wodehouse will recall the Great Sermon Handicap: which of the local clergy would go on longest on a specified Sunday? There was money on that race, too, and inside information as well. One of the horse-preachers was at long odds because in the last of the gallops he had dropped half his

sermon-notes in the vestry, and had to force to be unwontedly concise. From those in the know, the money poured on, as it poured on to the wholly innocent Bishop of St Albans, apparent victim of no stronger narcotic than a pain in the *Church of England Newsletter*.

There is, however, another possibility, almost too disagreeable to contemplate. Perhaps there is a double bluff involved: back St Albans right down to evens or odds-on, in the certainty that the betting will be suspended. In the ensuing uproar he will go out to nothing short of 20-1, when his trainer, disheartened, may scratch him.

The story gets more Trollopian by the minute. If there is such a plot against Bishop Taylor it cannot possibly be because of any shortcomings in his qualities, nor because there is a rival willing to stoop so low. Surely the whole business is a betting coup. The sinister suggestions — *cui bono?* — should be directed not at the relative merits of the episcopal contenders, all weighty men, but at those who have been putting large sums on a variety of bishops, juggling the odds day by day with a skill worthy of higher things.

There is no point now in complaining about the practice of betting on the preference of bishops. Even candidates for the papacy have had to suffer the indignity of seeing the odds chalked on a blackboard as they filed in to the Conclave. Most people will sympathise with the Bishop of St Albans, but even more will nod in agreement with the wise words that accompanied William Hill's closure of its book: spokesmen said that it was being done "because we do not have a hot line to the Almighty". Want to bet?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Role of West in aiding Cambodia

From Dr Peter Carey

Sir, The breakdown of the Cambodian peace talks in Tokyo this week (report, June 6) for a better-informed debate on international affairs by asserting that other countries maintained better contacts with dissidents in Eastern Europe or that the Foreign Office seems to have assumed that the Honeckers and Husaks enjoyed substantial indigenous support instead of realising that they were brutal puppets whose power rested entirely on Soviet tanks.

In the years (1984-88) when I was H.M. Ambassador to the GDR (German Democratic Republic), neither we nor the Foreign Office had the faintest doubt that Honecker relied entirely on force and on Soviet support. My predecessors too, and my colleagues in Warsaw and Prague with whom we exchanged visits thought the same about those regimes.

It was the progressive withdrawal of outside support for Honecker — which we could observe and report from Gorbachov's early days — which gave Honecker nightmares, and which made *Pravda* suddenly become popular for such East Germans as could read Russian.

It was equally obvious that the population would have no truck with a fictitious "German-Socialist" personality, distinct from German proper. The ambassadors in Bonn and East Berlin made a series of trips together in each other's territories to demonstrate our belief in the inevitability of German unity. HMG's classic position, often professed, was that "there will be no durable peace in Europe so long as the German people is divided against its will".

As for dissidents, the embassy in East Berlin and visiting British ministers consorted regularly with all kinds of these. We believed and reported that the Evangelical Church was the most effective element of opposition to Honecker's regime, and so it proved.

Unless the West moves swiftly to dismantle its blockade and isolate the Khmer Rouge — still led by Pol Pot and still armed by China with Thai military connivance — then the Phnom Penh regime will collapse. Good riddance to a Vietnamese "puppet" regime, some may think, but the West should remember that this time, unlike 1975, it will bear sole responsibility for the return of the Khmer Rouge "Killing Fields" and the insanity of a new "Year Zero".

Yours faithfully,
PETER CAREY,
Trinity College,
Oxford.
June 7.

Honours uneven

From Mr A. R. Hodgson

Sir, You may be assured that in Hampshire proper recognition is given to everyone awarded the British Empire Medal (report and leading article, June 1). An investigation ceremony is held twice a year by HM Lord-Lieutenant in the City of Winchester in the Great Hall, under the Round Table, at which a citation is read aloud describing the individual achievements of each recipient and the reason for the award (which I believe may not be the practice at Buckingham Palace).

Family and friends are warmly received and every opportunity is given for photographs in Queen Eleanor's Garden near by.

Galantry awards of various descriptions are presented to members of the public and of the emergency services and the citations are often moving accounts of conspicuous bravery.

Television and other media coverage of this event is extensive within Hampshire, so there is no question but that full recognition is given to the recipients of these honours.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HODGSON (Clerk of the Lieutenantancy, Hampshire),
The Castle,
Winchester, Hampshire.

Batter of fact

From Mr Henry G. Button

Sir, A fish and chip shop at Mossley, in Lancashire, was once thought to be the oldest in the world, as Bernard Silk indicates (article, May 30). This proved not to be so.

In 1965 the National Federation of Fish Friers began a search for the oldest fish and chip business in the world. In 1968 the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Cledwyn Hughes (as he then was), formally presented a plaque made by the federation to Mr Dennis Main, of Main's in the Old Ford Road, Bow. It bore the wording "The world's oldest fish and chip shop". Mr Main was the great-great-grandson of the man who had founded the business in 1865.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY G. BUTTON,
7 Amhurst Court,
Grange Road, Cambridge.

007's schooldays

From Mr S. D. Freer

Sir, Your report (May 29) that Ian Fleming was expelled from Eton is incorrect. Fleming was unhappy at Eton, and left before his time. He went on to a less conventional school in Austria, kept by Ernst Forster-Dennis and his wife, Phyllis Bottome; there he experienced what could truthfully be described as the happiest days of his life.

Yours faithfully,
S. D. FREER,
Brewery Cottage,
Little Compton,
Nr Moreton-in-Marsh,
Gloucestershire.

Countrywide access

From Mr Michael Thompson

Sir, What a pity Marion Shoard (report, June 6) did not have the indignity of seeing the odds chalked on a blackboard as they filed in to the Conclave. Most people will sympathise with the Bishop of St Albans, but even more will nod in agreement with the wise words that accompanied William Hill's closure of its book: spokesmen said that it was being done "because we do not have a hot line to the Almighty". Want to bet?

Miss Shoard glosses over the massive network of public footpaths that already exists across the country, most of which are greatly underused; she also ignores the latest Government initiative for encouraging farmers in certain areas to use set-aside land for public access and the increased risk of fire damage, straying stock, glass bottles thrown into the

UK's record on links with GDR

From Mr T. J. Everard

Sir, Vernon Bogdanor does not enhance his laudable plea ("Let's not let events dictate it", June 5) for a better-informed debate on international affairs by asserting that other countries maintained better contacts with dissidents in Eastern Europe or that the Foreign Office seems to have assumed that the Honeckers and Husaks enjoyed substantial indigenous support instead of realising that they were brutal puppets whose power rested entirely on Soviet tanks.

Throughout the Honecker years we insisted on the need to continue peak-hour broadcasting by the BBC German service as a means of demonstrating British solidarity with ordinary Germans and the need to keep them informed from different and complementary Western sources.

The list could be extended. The policy was "maximum engagement", which meant simultaneous engagement on all possible levels — since it was perfectly feasible to make progress on all fronts at once. We could and did solve our human rights cases with the Government, at the same time as getting contracts, encouraging the Church and maximising contact with UK.

When the records are opened, we will show a very comprehensive and perceptive British policy in Eastern Europe's difficult days, which will bear favourable comparison with any other country's and give cause for modest pride.

Yours faithfully,
TOM EVERARD,
15 Carlyle Mansions,
Cheyne Walk, SW3.
June 5.

From Mr Michael Brotherton

Sir, I trust there will be total understanding in the West of the concern felt by Mr Gorbachov and the Russian people about the future of a united Germany.

Suppose that the situation were to be reversed, and that there was talk of the inevitability of a united Germany joining the Warsaw Pact. That would surely send shudders down our Nato spine.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
MICHAEL BROTHERTON,
The Old Vicarage,
Wrangle,
Boston, Lincolnshire.
June 5.

11 or 12. In consequence of this many early pictures are being redated and Mr Hugh Belsey, Gainsborough House Museum; Dr John Hayes, National Portrait Gallery; and Dr Brian Allen of the Mellon Foundation have all used my notes in their latest books. I am at present working on a book intended to clarify and enlarge the knowledge of Gainsborough's early life.

This research was published in the *Burlington Magazine* in April 1983. The editor at the time was Mr Neil MacGregor now Director of the National Gallery. My work was supported and encouraged by Sir Hugh Casson and the late Sir Ellis Waterhouse, and Mr Roger de Grey, President of the Royal Academy, and many other Academicians, to whom I am and always will be grateful.

I also discovered a small self-portrait painted at about the age of

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The Birmingham portrait is dated 1742, the small picture c. 1737-38. A full colour reproduction of this was included in the publication of 1983, and I have bank receipts for the Garrick, which was originally in the possession of his first actor manager, Henry Giffard.

I did all I could to keep the picture in Birmingham. I failed.

Yours sincerely,
ADRIENNE CORRI,
26 Springfield Road, NW8.
June 5.

Mark of distinction

From Mr Bruce Clifford

Sir, I was disturbed to read your leader's faintly view (June 2) of the issue of a British Standard Institute's mark to linguistic phenomena (letters, May 29 and 30) is simply the result of European grammarians using these inappropriate categories to describe noun classes which are, in fact, impervious to such means of identification.

I am not sure that I know what precisely is implied by Sir Alfred Sherman's dictum that "Hebrew, like Arabic, is totally gender-inflected" or indeed what the connection of that might be with such extra-linguistic facts as Israeli women prime ministers, judges, or army officers.

Readers may be comforted to learn that the kitemark is also being considered for social care agencies: a guidance document is to be launched by the British Quality Association in the autumn.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE CLIFFORD
(Quality assurance officer)
Gloucestershire County Council,
Blewbury Wing, Shire Hall,
Gloucester.

June 4.

Neutral gender

From Professor Edward Ullendorff, FBA

Sir, The transference of anthropomorphic (or zoomorphic) gender categories to linguistic phenomena (letters, May 29 and 30) is simply the result of European grammarians using these inappropriate categories to describe noun classes which are, in fact, impervious to such means of identification.

Mr Levin is real keen, he may just have time to catch a similar concert in the Lorenz Kirche, Nuremberg. Alternatively, if he cares to visit the cathedral during one of our Friday morning assemblies, the school musicians will be pleased to treat him to a secular piece of his choice (which will be applauded).

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD TOMLINSON,
Headmaster.

The Cathedral School,
Old College,
29 Castle Street,
Hereford.

Naming the train

From Mr A. G. Pelling

Sir, I would like to suggest *Aquarius* or *The Aquarian* as the name for the cross-Channel train service, being symbolic of the new age.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. PELLING,
White Cottage,
42 Goldney Road,
Camberley, Surrey.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 8: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited Nottinghamshire today.

Her Majesty, Patron of the Church Urban Fund, and his Royal Highness, visited St Stephen's Church, Histon Green and were received by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham (Councillor Christopher Gibson), the Bishop of Southwell (the Right Reverend Patrick Harris) and Sir Richard O'Brien (Chairman of the Fund).

Escorted by the Vicar (the Reverend Glyn Jones), The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh viewed displays on the activities of the Fund in the area and Her Majesty unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Afterwards Her Royal Highness and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Portland Training College for the Physically Disabled at Mansfield, to mark the 40th Anniversary of the admission of its first students.

Having been received by Mr John Pratt (Chairman) and Mr Peter Davis (Director), Her Majesty distributed the Awards at the annual prize-giving ceremony and honoured the Chairman with Her presence at lunch.

In the afternoon The Queen laid the foundation stone of a new residential building and, with The Duke of Edinburgh, toured the College and attended a Service of Thanksgiving.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness later visited Fountham School for the Physically Handicapped and were received by the Headmaster (Mrs A Brighton).

The Lady Farnham, Sir Robert Fellowes and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF, were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, International President of WFW-World Wide Fund for Nature and President of the St Peter Scott Memorial Appeal for Conservation, attended a Ball at Osterley Park.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Wingate Charlton at the Thanksgiving Service for Brigadier Cuthbert Goulburn which was held in St Mary's Church, Bridgnorth, this afternoon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 8: The Duke of York this evening visited the Surrey Salons of Creative Photography at the Ashley Gallery, Epsom and was received by Major James More-Molyneux (Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Surrey).

Captain Neil Blair, RN was in attendance.

The Duchess of York, Patron

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend the Senior European Film Championships, Hayling Island Sailing Club, Portsmouth, at 9.10; as President of the Save the Children Fund, she will attend a luncheon given by the fund's Portsmouth branch at the Southampton Institute of Higher Education, Weymouth, at 12.30; will visit the fund's shop in Portsmouth, at 1.45; and in Portchester at 2.30; she will visit Gosport Sailing Club to watch the closing stages of the Stokes Bay Marathon Windsurfing race at 3.15, in aid of the fund; and will re-open Bury House, Bury Road, Gosport, at 4.30.

The Duchess of Kent will attend the Commissioning Ceremony of HMS *Upholder* at Barrow-in-Furness at 11.30.

Princess Alexandra will visit Milford Haven, Dyfed, at 2.00 for the bicentennial

celebrations.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr P.G. Beasley, MEP, 68; Mr Tony Britton, actor, 66; Professor Geraud Gruffydd, director, University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, 62; Mr C.J.M. Hardie, former chairman, National Profidint Institution, 52; Mr Robert McNamara, former American Secretary of Defence, 74; General Sir Geoffrey Musson, 80; Mrs June O'Dell, deputy chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission, 61; Mr S. Gorley Puff, literary historian, 77; Mr Charles Saatchi, director, Saatchi and Saatchi, 47; Mr Peter Saatchi, chief executive, Commission for Racial Equality, 52; Mr D.B. Smith, chairman, ACAS, 58; Mr Steve Smith, Eccles, jockey, 35; Vice-Admiral Sir Patrick Symons, 57; the Right Rev Dr O.S. Tomkins, former Bishop of Bristol, 82; Colonel J.F. Williams-Wynne, former Lord Lieutenant of Gwynedd, 82.

TOMORROW: Mr Leonard Badham, former vice-chairman, J Lyons and Company, 67; Mr W.G. Barr, former rector, Exeter, 1836.

of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, visited the Association's Research Grantees Conference, a Cumberland Lodge, Berkhamsted.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, later attended a Motor Neurone Disease Association luncheon at the Bell Inn, Aston Clinton, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant (Commander the Hon John Fremantle RN).

Mrs John Spooner and Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 8: The Prince Royal visited HMS

COLLINGWOOD, Fareham, in its 50th Anniversary year and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire (Lieutenant-Colonel St James Scott, Bt).

Afterwards Her Royal Highness, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, visited the Bradbourne Group at Bradbourne Riding and Training Centre, Sevenoaks and was received by the Lord Cornwallis (Deputy Lieutenant of Kent).

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 8: The Prince of Wales received the Right Hon Peter Walker, MP.

His Royal Highness attended a luncheon given by the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Preservation Trust at Barnsley House, Cheltenham.

Mr Richard Aylard, RN, was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
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His Royal Highness was received on arrival by Mr James Hastie (Vice Lord Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of the Girl Guides Association, today opened the renovated Scottish Headquarters in Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Berwickshire (Major-General Sir John Swinton).

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Sue Ryder Home at Marhamont and visited Duns in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Granting of the Royal Charter.

The Lady Glenconner and Major the Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
June 8: The Duchess of Kent, as a Trustee, this afternoon attended a meeting of the Jacqueline du Pre Memorial Fund at 16 Ogle Street, London W1.

College, Oxford, 73; Mr Saul Bellow, writer, 75; the Right Rev L.W. Brown, former Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, 78; Sir Bryan Carpenter, principal, Linacre College, Oxford, 59; Sir Christopher Collett, former Lord Mayor of London, 59; Mr Robert Edison, actor, 82; Sir Brinsley Ford, former chairman, National Film and Television Fund, 82; Mr Justice Peter Gilman, 56; Mr Gordon Carter, 56; Mr George Cawood, former publisher, 44; Sir William Hesketh, civil engineer, 78; Mr Guy Harwood, racehorse trainer, 51; Sir Arthur Hawkins, former chairman, CEGB, 77; Dr Poly Hill, anthropologist, 76; Mr Lionel Jeffries, actor, 64; Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman, Mirror Group Newspapers, 67; Sir Geoffrey Oton, civil servant, 63; Sir John Stradling Thomas, MP, 65; Mr Phil Tuck, jockey, 34; Major-General Michael Walsh, former Chief Scout, 63; the Ven C. Witton-Davies, Archdeacon Emeritus of Oxford, 77.

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The Duke of Edinburgh celebrates his birthday tomorrow.

ANNIVERSARIES

TODAY: Births: Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia, 1682-1725, Moscow, 1672; Andrew Ramsay, writer, Ayr, 1686; George Stephenson, builder of the Rocket locomotive, Wylam, Northumberland, 1781; John Howard Payne, actor and dramatist, New York, 1792. Deaths: Nero, Roman emperor AD54-68; Rome AD68; William Maitland (Maitland of Thetford), statesman, Leith, 1573; William Lilly, astrologer, Hertfordshire, Surrey, 1681; George Payne James, novelist, Venice, 1861; Sir James Brooke, rajah of Sarawak, 1841-68; Horatio Nelson, 1805; Charles Dickens, Gadshill Place, Rochester, 1860; Sir John Stradling Thomas, MP, 1861; Mr Philip Tuck, jockey, 1841-68; Major-General Michael Walsh, former Chief Scout, 1863; the Ven C. Witton-Davies, Archdeacon Emeritus of Oxford, 1863.

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SATURDAY'S TELEVISION & RADIO

BBC 1

8.40 Open University.
7.30 Playdays (7.50 Muppet Babies (r))
8.15 The 8.15 from Manchester. The early morning magazine programme for younger viewers. Special guests on this week's show are They Might Be Giants. There is a look at Richard Branson and his driver Deborah Turness as they prepare for the Paris to Peking rally and a holiday where guests are expected to milk goats, look after pigs and make their own butter and cheese.
10.52 Weather
10.55 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 10.55, 2.40 and 3.10 Cricket: the third day's play in the first Test between England and Australia. Zedel's Travel Show 10.55 News; 1.05, 2.40 and 3.10 Tennis: the women's final of the French championships; 2.55, 2.55 and 3.10 Racing from Haydock Park; 3.40 Football: the World Cup match between the Soviet Union and Romania. 6.00 News with Moira Stuart. Weather 6.10 Regional news and sport 6.15 Tom and Jerry. Cartoon 6.30 That's Showbusiness. The game show that tests celebrities' knowledge of showbusiness. Joining Gloria Hunniford's team are Sue Johnston and Andrew O'Connor, while Kenny Everett will be pooling the resources of Keith Barron and Lisa Maxwell. Mike Smith asks the questions. (Ceefax)

7.00 The Les Dennis Laughter Show. Despite the title, many of the items on the show could have been performed by any reasonably competent light comedian and hardly bear the stamp of a distinctive personality. Although he is considerably more than competent, Dennis seems reluctant to put himself centre stage. Or perhaps he does



Les Dennis vs. Richard Hirschbush (7.00pm)

hour there is no time to get bored. (Ceefax)
7.30 Takeover Bid. Bruce Forsyth's new game show where contestants have to prevent their prizes from being "taken over".

8.00 Film: Silverado (1985). Lively and funny Western in which four wanderers enter a town rife with corruption and violence. At the heart of this corruption, is a tyrannical sheriff. The four decide to form an unlikely partnership to rid the town of this despot. Stars Kevin Kline, Scott Glenn, Danny Glover and Kevin Costner, with John Cusack in great form as the sheriff. Directed by Lawrence Kasdan. (Ceefax)

10.10 News, sport and weather 10.30 Crime. Deluge. Fine, true-life stories set in a hospital accident and emergency department (r). (Ceefax)

11.20 World Cup Report. Highlights of today's action from Italy. The matches include Italy v Austria, Soviet Union v Romania and United Arab Emirates v Colombia. Introduced by Desmond Lynam.

12.00 Film: The Mean Machine (1974) starring Burt Reynolds. Clever and funny comedy about a football player who is sent to prison for reckless driving. Fed up with the sadism and rough treatment from warden Eddie Albert, he convinces the prisoners' team that it needs a warm-up match and begins to train it into a formidable force, the Mean Machine. Directed by Robert Aldrich. (Ceefax)

2.00am Weather

not trust his scriptwriters to come up with the goods. The two most substantial pieces fall back on that old standby of parodying other television programmes. The targets are a travel show, brought to us from a country in the grip of civil war and far too long, and a daytime magazine presented by a self-congratulatory couple called Richard and Judy. But the show relies mostly on the sort of one-line jokes that Morecambe and Wise used as filters between their man sketches. None of it is side-splittingly funny but with 14 items, including two guest spots, crammed into the half

BBC 2

6.50 Open University: Maths — Volumes of Revolution 7.15 Education: Aspects of Effectiveness 7.40 Geology of the Alps 8.05 Computing: The Way to Holmes 8.30 Trading on Uncertainty 8.55 IT in Bank Training 9.20 Technology: A Software Self 9.45 Handwriting 10.10 Images: Distortion in Action 10.35 Education: Through the Looking Glass 11.00 Education: Financial Cuts 11.25 The Evolution of Mammals 11.50 Arts: King Cotton's Palace 12.15 Baby Talk 1.05 Innovation on the Rails 1.30 Modern Art: Mondrian 1.55 Culture and Belief in Europe 1450-1600 2.20 Brazil: Manufacturing the Minas 2.45 Mahabharat. Episode nine of the 91-part dramatization of the Indian epic poem, in Hindi with English subtitles 3.25 Czechoslovakian General Election Special. ● Promised "in-depth analysis" from the excitable Peter Snow, connoisseurs of television election coverage may be wickedly hoping for a repeat of 1987 when he managed to underestimate the Thatcher victory by about 70 seats. Snow and the indispensable David Dimbleby will be bringing us the results from a glass-backed studio overlooking Wenceslas Square, with Vivian White out among the crowds hoping to find enough English speakers to give their reactions. Such has been the pace of change in eastern Europe that this programme would have been unthinkable even a year ago. There was no point in covering an election when there was only one party to vote for. Now the fate of the new democratic Czechoslovakia is something which concerns us all 4.15 The Sky at Night: Looking Back In Time. Astronomical facts and figures. Patrick Moore travels to La Palma, in

the Canary Islands, to look at the world's third largest astronomical telescope, the William Herschel (r).
4.40 Cricket. First Test. Live coverage of the closing session of the third day's play in the game at Trent Bridge between England and New Zealand.
6.30 US Open Golf 1989. A look back at last year's competition, won by Curtis Strange, his second US Open win in consecutive years.
7.15 NewsView with Moira Stuart and Alan Mayne. Weather

8.00 Eurovision Young Musician of the Year. Eighteen of the finest young musicians in Europe battle it out for the title of Eurovision Young Musician of the Year, including our own Nicola Loud, the 15-year-old North London violinist. Over the week, hopeful contestants have played their hearts out, accompanied by the Austrian Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Pinhas Steinberg, to impress the judges. Introduced by Humphrey Burton, with expert opinion from Edward Gregson

10.15 Open Space: Have You Heard the One About the Englishman...? ● Or the one about the Paketari, or the Irishman or the Jew? Jokes about racial minorities are the staple of comedians on the club circuit and former stand-up comic Tom Hayes thinks that enough is enough. The argument of his film is that persecution is being portrayed as entertainment and that the jokes help to make prejudices acceptable. The comedians are unapologetic. They say they are giving the customers what they want. What the clubs don't want, is Arthur Ashe and his busy bee. Comedian Franke Allen thinks that without Pakistani jokes the audience loses interest. Bernard Manning defends a sick joke about the death of 200 Japanese in an air crash as "getting my own back for the troops who died on the Burma

railway". But he says he would draw the line at cripples, even coloured cripples. The programme claims that it is showing only the tip of the iceberg. Faced with the cameras, some of the comedians took flight and cut their most extreme material. (Ceefax)

10.45 Saturday Night Clyde. Scottish arts magazine. Acts on view tonight include Philippe Decouflé, the man behind the choreography of the New Order and Fine Young Cannibals video. Jazz saxophonist Tommy Smith and the Scottish Ensemble are in performance and there is a look at the new show by Spalding Gray and the three installation artists representing Scotland at the Venice Biennale, the world's largest arts exhibition.

11.25 Czechoslovakian General Election Special. The second in the special live coverage programme. This 50 minute programme covers all the election results as they come in.
12.15am Cricket: First Test. Highlights of the day's play between England and New Zealand at Trent Bridge. Introduced by Richie Benaud. Ends at 12.50

Tom Hayes revokes licence to above (10.15pm)

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French 12.50am Film: The Alpha Caper 8.15 The Hit Man And His 4.15 Million Tell 4.40-6.10 America's Top Ten

GRANADA As London except: 12.50am Film: The Alpha Caper 2.15 The Hit Man And His 4.15-6.10 In the Heat of the Night

BORDER As London except: 12.50am-1.00 NBC 2.35 Family Theatre: The Movie Star's Daughter 12.50am Film: The Alpha Caper 2.15 The Hit Man And His 4.15 Million Tell 4.40-6.10 America's Top Ten

CENTRAL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 World Motor Cycle Scrambling 12.50am Game's Bonfire 1.50 Chemistry/Science 2.30 Police Drama 2.45-3.00 America's Top Ten 3.50 Baseball 4.30-6.10 Profits

CHANNEL

As London except: 12.30pm Supercoach 12.50am Friday The 13th 1.45 The Munsters Today 2.10 Raw Power 3.10-4.10 Wrestling

GRAMPIAN

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Am

TV5 As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Supercoach 12.50am Friday The Thrillent 1.45 The Munsters Today 2.10 Raw Power 3.10-4.10 Wrestling

HTV WEST As London except: 12.50am Throb 1.20 Three's Company 1.50 Film: The Birds 3.55 Night 4.15-5.10 Badcock: Steddy Spain

HTV WALES As HTV West except: No Variations

SCOTSMAN As London except: 12.50am-1.00 The Caribels 12.50am Badcock: Steddy Spain

YORKSHIRE As London except: 12.50am Off The Ball 1.55 The Twenty Two Zone 2.15 The Hit Man And His 4.15-5.10 Race to Riches

S4C

Welsh 5.00am Early Morning 6.05 Australian Rules Football 10.30 Late Night Eye 11.00 Check Out 11.50 Loads More Magic and Magic 12.00 The Running Programme 12.20 Hard News 1.00 Film: The Black Swan 2.30 Report from the 5.00 Broadcast 5.00-6.00 The 5.00-6.00 The Year 7.00 The Television Zone 7.30 Neverland 7.45 Gavel Set 8.25 Rybka Rhyndie 8.55 Film on Four: In Fading Light 10.55 Report from the Alcatraz 11.45 Burning Bright 12.00am Film: Quarter 2.00

RTÉ 1 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

NETWORK 2 Starts: 12.30pm News 12.34 Sports Studio 1.30 Film: The 100 1.50 London 2.00 News 2.30 Film: The 100 3.00 Film: The 100 3.30 Film: The 100 4.00 News 7.00 The Tracey Ullman Show 7.25 News 7.30 Italia 90 Italy 10.00 News 10.55 Straight From The Hip 11.15 Close

ITV 1 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 3 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 4 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 5 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 6 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 7 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 8 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 9 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 10 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 11 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 12 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 13 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 14 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 15 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.15 Film: The Cossack 1.25 Admire and 1.30 The Secret Woman 2.00 News Followed by Happy Birthday F. E. 2.35 Film: The Perfect Score 3.00 Film: Gold Is Where You Find It 4.00 News 4.15-5.15 Film: Fizz 7.05 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 7.45 The Fly 8.00 News 9.20 Gentleman 9.15 Long-time Doves 12.00 News 12.15 Close

ITV 16 Starts: 10.40am Poppy's Feltier Adventures 11.00 Book Review 12.50 25th Century 1.

SUNDAY'S TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVILLE

BBC 1

6.45 Open University: Engineering Mechanics — Solids and Fluids 7.10 Lava of Etna 7.35 The Setting of the New Deal 8.00 Physical Chemistry: Ammonia Synthesis 8.25 Mathematical Models and Methods Ends at 8.50

8.55 Playdays from Tebay, Cumbria 9.15 Making Sense . . . of Jesus (r) 9.30 This is the Day: Simple religious service from the Christian Rural Centre in Staffordshire

10.00 Bazaar: Household hints and household advice (r) 10.25 Take Nobody's Word for It: Science magazine (r)

10.50 Business Matters: The last of three reports on what the European Market has to offer Britain (r) 11.15 The Big E. Chris Bambridge visits an organic farm in Somerset (r). (Oracle)

11.40 When in France: French for beginners

12.05 Sign Extra: An edition of *Nature* adapted for the hearing impaired. Wales: You Are What You Eat 12.15 Snap!

12.30 Country File: Rupert Sagar examines the proposal to use 'green taxes' on pollution makers 12.55 Weather: Wales: 12.25 Farming Wales 1.00 News with Moira Stuart followed by On the Record: Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, talks to Jonathan Dimbleby about his controversial NHS reforms

2.00 EastEnders: Omnibus edition (r). (Ceefax)

3.00 Film: Ice Station Zebra (1968) starring Rock Hudson, Ernest Borgnine and Patrick McGoohan. Story rendering of Alastair MacLean's story of superpower confrontation set in the

BBC 2

6.35 Open University: Pure Maths — Circles 7.00 Assessing Chances 7.25 Calculus: Behaviour of Functions 7.50 Technology: Something New Under the Sun? 8.15 Working for Love 8.40 Photochemistry: Vision 9.05 Interpersonal Communication 9.30 Forces and Violence 9.55 Arts: The Great Exhibition 10.20 Diabetes: Restoring the Balance 10.45 Maths: Volumes of Revolution 11.10 Genetics: Of Gann and Ganes 11.35 Man-Made Macromolecules

12.00 Westminster Week: Highlights of the week in Westminster with Christopher Jones. (Ceefax) includes Around Westminster at 12.35. Wales: Sign Extra: Northern Ireland: A Taste of Ireland

1.00 Ecology: Ants and Acacias. Another in the series that explores the environment. Today's programme looks at the mutual dependence between ants and their host, the acacia tree

1.25 One in Four: Weekly magazine for the disabled, with sign language and subtitles for the hard of hearing

1.55 Grandstand introduces by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 2.00 and 5.00 Tennis: live coverage of the men's singles final of the French Open Championships; 4.00 Cycling: the story of the 33rd Milk Race which began two weeks ago

6.35 The Money Programme: Steve Levinson reports on the possible consequences of Britain joining the European Exchange Rate Mechanism and looks at what effects it has had on the currencies and economies of Spain and France

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW 5.30am Gary King 7.00 The Bruno and Le Breakfast Show 9.30 Dave Lee Live 12.30-10 30 Years of Number Ones 3.00 Pop of the Form 3.30 Pop School 4.00 100 70s Acids Nightline's Request Show 9.00 Andy Kershaw 11.00-2.00am Bob Harris on Sunday

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 4.00am-6.00am Bumper 6.00 Graham Kerr 7.00 Good Morning Sunday 8.00 Melodies for You 11.00 Radio 2 All: Time Greats 2.00pm Benny Green 3.00 Sounds Easy 4.00 Robert Donald 5.00 Soviet 6.00 100 70s Acids 7.00 Our Country 7.00 Music from the Movies (new series) Part 1: The Wild West 8.00 Robert White Songs by Irving Berlin 8.30 Sunday Hand 9.00 Your Hit Parade 10.00 Radio 2 10.50 Radio 2 2.00 Programme 12.50 Sounds of the Fifites 1.00-4.00am Nostalgia MW as above except: 2.00-7.00pm Sunday Sport on 2

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. Add an hour for BST.

5.00 World News 5.50-24 Hours Live 5.50 London Main 5.50 Weather 6.00 Newsweek 6.30 Jazz in the Asking 7.00 Weather 7.09-24 Hours: News 7.00-11.00 7.30 From Our Correspondent 7.45 Book Choice 7.50 We're 8.00 World News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Music for a While with Richard Baker 8.30-9.15 Tech Talk 9.30 The British Press 9.45 Tech Talk 9.45 Short Story: Hashem's Honour 10.00 News Summary 10.10 Science in Action 10.30 News 10.45-11.00 Weather 11.00 World Magazin 10.59 Weather 6.00 Newsweek 6.30 Jazz in the Asking 7.00 Weather 7.09-24 Hours: News 7.00-11.00 7.30 From Our Correspondent 7.45 Book Choice 7.50 We're 8.00 World News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Music for a While with Richard Baker 8.30-9.15 Tech Talk 9.30 The British Press 9.45 Tech Talk 9.45 Short Story: Hashem's Honour 10.00 News Summary 10.10 Science in Action 10.30 News 10.45-11.00 Weather 11.00 World Magazin 10.59 Weather 6.00 Newsweek 6.30 Jazz in the Asking 7.00 Weather 7.09-24 Hours: News 7.00-11.00 7.30 From Our 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● COMMENT: KENNETH FLEET 19
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 ● SHARES: OWNERS FORGET 24
 ● PEPS: PENSIONS 26

SATURDAY JUNE 9 1990

Dunsdale
solicitor
decries
regulation

THE collapse of Dunsdale Securities, with losses of up to £20 million, has raised questions about the effectiveness of the Financial Services Act. Mr David Pine, a senior partner of Alexander Tatham, the solicitor that acted for the Barlow Clowes investors, said regulation was not working and investors would be at risk unless it was reviewed.

"All these regulatory bodies and safeguards the FSA brought in still do not cover this type of situation. There is only one type of protection for investors in this sort of case, and that is professional indemnity cover," said Mr Pine, who is acting on behalf of Dunsdale investors.

Meanwhile, confusion over the last movements of Mr Robert Miller, the Dunsdale chief, deepened. The Serious Fraud Office confirmed it was continuing its investigation, but would not comment on reports that he was abroad.

A meeting of Dunsdale creditors is to be held in London on Monday.

Lloyds coup

Lloyds Bank, veteran of the water industry privatization and the shambolic flotation of the Abbey National, has been made lead receiving bank for the float of the 12 regional electricity distribution companies this autumn and the two big generators in 1991.

The bank's registrars will handle about half the total applications for the distributors and maintain shareholder registers for six months.

Ramus warning

Ramus, the USM-quoted building products group, has given warning of a loss in the second half. The shares fell 13p to 55p on the news. Ramus does, however, expect the benefits of cost cuts to be felt in the year to end-June 1991.

News chairman

Mr Andrew Knight, executive chairman of News International, has been elected chairman of Times Newspapers Holdings, in succession to Mr Rupert Murdoch, who has been chairman since the acquisition of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* in 1981. Mr Murdoch, who is chief executive of The News Corporation, will remain a member of the board.

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%
 3-month Interbank 15%+15%
 3-month eligible bills: 14%+14%
 US: Prime Rate 10%
 Federal Funds 8%+8%
 3-month Treasury Bills 7.71%+7.65%
 30-year bonds 103%+103%
 ECU 07 719758 ECU 07 777425
 ECU 07 889354 ECU 07 262327

CURRENCIES

London: £1.6830
 New York: \$1.6845
 £1.68970*
 \$2.874500
 £1.9175
 \$1.7404*
 £1.7520.09
 \$1.7547*
 £1.6955
 \$1.6767
 ECU 07 719758
 ECU 07 889354
 ECU 07 262327

GOLD

London Fixing:
 AM 5353.60 pm 5353.50
 close 5354.25-34.75 (0210.50-
 2110)
 New York:
 Comex 5354.30-34.80*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (JUL) \$15.45 bbl (\$15.85)
 *Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ 2.315
 Austria Sch 2.115
 Belgium Fr 1.955
 Canada \$ 1.94
 Denmark Kr 1.355
 Finland Mark 7.02
 France Fr 2.79
 Germany Dm 2.97
 Greece Dr 268
 Hong Kong \$ 13.72
 Ireland P 1.045
 Italy Lira 2.505
 Japan Yen 272
 Netherlands Gld 3.325
 Norway Kr 1.14
 Portugal Esc 261
 South Africa R 5.70
 Spain Pta 183.25
 Sweden Kr 10.12
 Switzerland Fr 2.54
 Turkey Lira 455.00
 USA \$ 1.765
 Yugoslavia Dr 24.00
 18.00

For rates of small denominations, bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travel agent cheques
 Retail Price Index: 125.1 (April)

MAJOR INDICES

New York: Dow Jones 2873.79 (+23.54)*
 Tokyo: Nikkei Average 2293.29 (-19.21)
 Hong Kong: Hang Seng 3174.33 (+29.03)
 Amsterdam: CBS Tendency 120.9 (-0.2)
 Sydney: AO 1822.23 (-15.20)
 Frankfurt: DAX 6375.70 (+0.05)
 Brussels: General 545.71 (-0.12)
 Paris: CAC 120.22
 Zurich: SCA Gen 116.01 (-4.69)
 FT-AIA All Share 1272.65 (-4.51)
 FT-500* 178.55 (-2.8)
 FT-Fixed interest 87.55 (+0.14)
 FT-Govt Secs 78.75 (+0.06)
 Bargains 3109.75
 SEAO Volume 444.20
 USM (Datstream) 134.40 (+0.36)

*Denotes latest trading price

Attwoods adds to £700m rights calls

By OUR FINANCIAL STAFF



Foreman: acquisitions

ATTWOODS, the waste disposal company where Mr Denis Thatcher is non-executive deputy chairman, is raising £82 million by means of a heavily discounted rights issue.

The move adds to a rising tide of rights issues in recent months. Over the past fortnight, companies facing no urgent liquidity problems have announced issues totalling about £700 million, either to fund acquisitions or prepare for future expansion.

These included £140 million for Bowater, £80 million for Morgan Crucible, £30 million each for Body Shop and Ashley Group and one for £320 million by Tomkins.

Mr Michael Payne, director of strategy at the Legal & General insurance group, said:

"We expected a spate this year. They can be welcome if they are made for positive reasons and not simply because banks will not lend any more money."

Stock Exchange market-makers are more cautious about the trend because they fear that a few big share issues could drain cash from the market. There has been speculation of more large rights issues next week. These include a £500 million issue by Racal, although sources close to the company suggest this is extremely unlikely.

The spate of issues is likely to pause next month when the £1.5 billion second instalment on water privatization is due. The privatization of electricity distribution companies and a £300 million issue from Eurotunnel are due in the autumn.

The way was prepared by Rank Organisation, which raised £360 million in January. That offer was well received, breaking the aversion to big company issues caused by the stock market crash of 1987. This saw institutional investors incur large losses from a series of cash-raising exercises at the height of the stock market boom.

Unusually, several issues

have raised the share prices of the companies concerned, because high interest rates have made equity issues less costly, and investors favour companies without excessive debt.

Mr Mark Cusack, head of research at Hoare Govett, said the cash-raising was not affecting markets significantly because financial institutions had plenty of cash from recent deals, including the French tender for Guinness shares.

At a time when share prices were rising fast in thin markets, issues by companies with well-regarded management have been seen by the big funds as a good way of investing money without driving prices up.

"They can be an easy way of getting money into the market provided they are well spread and not all at the peak," said Mr Payne.

Mr Ken Foreman, the chairman of Attwoods, said the money raised would be used to reduce the group's £79.4 million of borrowings and support its acquisition and development programme. The rights issue has been fully underwritten by SG Warburg and Robert Fleming.

The company is issuing 21.5 million new ordinary shares at 390p on the basis of one new share for every four held and one new share for every 14.28 preference shares held. Attwoods shares fell 2p to 476p. Laidlaw, the Canadian transportation group which holds a 36.9 per cent stake, received a 36.9 per cent stake.

Unusually, several issues

intends to take up all of its rights.

Attwoods is in an advanced stage of negotiation for the acquisition of a substantial minority interest in a privately-owned British waste management company. It is also negotiating to buy two landfill sites in Florida and Maryland. The price is expected to be £30 million.

Attwoods' gearing ratio is about 95 per cent, with interest cover of six times. The rights issue will take the gearing ratio down to zero and will allow the company to refinance existing credit lines on more favourable terms. After the rights issue, the company will have facilities of £90 million available to it.

Mr Foreman said the group had not had a rights issue since 1984 despite spending more than £66 million on acquisitions in the last two years. In addition, the group has conditionally agreed to purchase Atlantic, a solid waste disposal business in New Jersey for \$19 million (£11.3 million).

Attwoods, through Warburg Securities, its broker, has also pioneered a move to remove the penalty rights issues usually pose on overseas shareholders. American investors, who own 20 per cent of Attwoods, will be able to take up their entitlement. Warburg thinks it is the first time this has been done for an underwritten British rights issue.

Mr Foreman said the waste management industry is resistant to economic recession and the group is benefiting from the trend towards recycling in the US. He thinks recycling will take off in Britain after legislation encourages it.

The rights issue was well received by the City. Mr James Mann, an analyst with Schroders, said the timing of the issue was good. Interest payable is set to fall by about 29 million next year as a result of the issue and Mr Mann is upgrading its pre-tax profit forecast for the year to July 1991 from £38.2 million to £46 million.

Asked whether the collapse of Coloroll and non-payment of some of its debts would trigger bankruptcies among its suppliers, he said: "It depends on how deep the creditors are in and how well they have read the tea leaves over the past months. They were given enough warning."

Analysis doubt whether a break-up of the group by the receivers in today's trading environment would raise

Rhodes in tune with Tie Rack

JOHN CHAPMAN



MISS Zandra Rhodes, the fashion designer, has teamed up with Tie Rack for its autumn collection, which was launched in London yesterday. Mr Roy Bishko, the chairman of Tie Rack, said that despite static like-for-like sales, the group's 'Glasnost' silk tie, featuring Soviet and American flags with a dove of peace is selling well.

Coloroll debts exceed £300m, says receiver

By MARTIN WALLER

DEBTS at Coloroll, Mr John Ashcroft's failed home furnishings group, are more than £300 million, according to Ernst & Young, the receiver.

Shareholders are likely to receive nothing, and the thousands of unsecured creditors, who are owed about £150 million and rank behind the banks and other secured creditors, may also not be paid anything. The 8,500 employees of Coloroll will learn more about their prospects on Monday.

Mr Nigel Hamilton, of Ernst & Young, said: "The outlook for the shareholders must be bleak. I don't think it will pay them to believe they would get too much out of it."

Asked whether the collapse of Coloroll and non-payment of some of its debts would trigger bankruptcies among its suppliers, he said: "It depends on how deep the creditors are in and how well they have read the tea leaves over the past months. They were given enough warning."

Analysis doubt whether a break-up of the group by the receivers in today's trading environment would raise

will certainly, at that stage, be looking for an upturn."

Mr Hamilton said that the task of selling the businesses would be "quite a long haul."

Ernst & Young has teams in

at the 19 sites from which

Coloroll operates and expects

to decide over the weekend

which jobs will be retained.

Mr Hamilton said: "It may be that there are places where there will have to be redundancies. There's no point in us throwing away further creditors' money."

He added: "I'm confident that, given a little bit of time, we will be able to package some of the very good businesses, which will enable us to sell them as going concerns."

Analysts believe that the furniture-making operation, based in Bradford, will have to close, at the cost of several hundred jobs. Also at risk, they believe, are some of the carpet businesses. Managers at Bradford are trying to arrange a buyout to save 700 jobs.

Likely to join the list of unsecured creditors is Mr Ashcroft, who quit in March. His severance payment is still being negotiated.

Bass sells four hotels in Holland

Bass sells four hotels in Holland

By PHILIP PANGALOS

BASS, the brewing and hotels group, has completed the contracts for the four Amsterdam Crest hotels that are being acquired by Buckingham International, the hotel to nursing homes group controlled by the Jivraj family.

The deal, which was announced on Wednesday, is worth £12.75 million.

In conjunction with the acquisition, which consists of 338 rooms, Buckingham will apply for a Holiday Inn franchise for the Hotel Estoril Praia in Portugal.

Buckingham also wants to develop a number of Garden Court and other Holiday Inn hotels in Spain, Portugal and Britain and will co-operate with Holiday Inn for hotel development in the U.S.

Including sales of most of Crest hotels earlier this year to Trusthouse Forte for £300 million, Bass has received more than £410 million from hotel disposals.

Bass is also transferring four Crest hotels in Britain and four elsewhere in Europe, with a total of 1,427 rooms and a combined book value of £115 million to Holiday Inn.

Bass shares firmed by 5p to 106.5p.

PORTSMOUTH & SUNDERLAND NEWSPAPERS, plc

"CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT DESPITE MORE DIFFICULT TRADING CONDITIONS"

SIR RICHARD STOREY Bl.. Chairman.

| YEAR TO END OF MARCH | 1990 | 1989 | Growth |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| TURNOVER | £81.2m | £71.7m | up 13% |
| PROFIT BEFORE TAX | £5.9m | £5.8m | up 2% |
| EARNINGS PER SHARE | 35.9p | 28.5p | up 26% |
| DIVIDEND PER SHARE | 7.90p | 6.80p | up 15% |

ANALYSIS OF GROWTH IN TURNOVER:-

Publishing up 3%

Printing up 15%

Retailing up 24%

Copies of the Report and Accounts

for 1990 will be mailed to

shareholders on June 29, 1990 and

will be available on request from

T F Lake Esq., Company Secretary,

Portsmouth & Sunderland</p

Bundesbank chief says it is not the best time for UK to join

Pöhl dampens hopes on ERM

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HERR Kari Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank president, has sought for the second time in just over a week to dampen market expectations that the pound will soon play a full role in the European Monetary System.

His remarks followed a strong endorsement on Thursday of sterling entry into the EMS exchange rate mechanism made by Mr John Major, the Chancellor, which aroused renewed optimism in the financial markets, particularly

golds. Herr Pöhl, who from July 1 also takes responsibility for East Germany's monetary policy, is clearly opposed to

any attempt to take the pound into the ERM before the British economy is in better shape, so as to avoid turbulence in the early days of German monetary union.

Addressing businessmen and bankers in Frankfurt, he said the moment was not yet right for Britain to join the exchange rate mechanism.

"It is not the best time for the UK to join because of its inflation and high balance of payments deficits," he said.

In apparent recognition of the more positive tone adopted by Mr Major, Herr Pöhl added that Britain was, however, more ready to join now than in the past.

Despite denied reports of a continued rift between Bonn and the Bundesbank over GMU, Herr Pöhl expressed confidence that Britain was, the CBI's chief economic adviser said.

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Professor Doug McWilliams forecast a 10 per cent annual rise in German imports over the next three years as East Germans catch up with living standards in the West.

Exporters could help the payments gap if they maintained their share of the West German market.

"Germany is already the United Kingdom's largest export market and is the fastest growing major economy in the West," Professor McWilliams said.

He is to chair a CBI conference at its London headquarters on June 22 on the implications of German unification for British business.

Parretti's MGM bid is delayed

From PHILIP ROBINSON
IN LOS ANGELES

SIGNOR Giancarlo Parretti's \$1.2 billion takeover bid for MGM United Artists, the Hollywood studio, has been delayed for a week, the third postponement of the Italian tycoon's completion date since April.

Signor Parretti's Pathé Communications said it has until June 23 to close the deal, but as a sign of good faith Signor Parretti has paid MGM three of the four non-returnable monthly deposits of \$50 million.

The final payment is now due and failure to pay would put the deal at risk.

Earlier this week Wall Street was speculating that the deal was in trouble and that Signor Parretti was having problems raising the money.

Some analysts suggested that directors of the Time Warner entertainment conglomerate were now divided about their earlier decision to lend Signor Parretti \$650 million.

A spokesman for Pathé said that any delay should not be taken to mean the deal is in trouble. "The delay for completion is due largely to technical factors," he said.

Pathé's official statement said the company was still signing contracts which would guarantee funding for the bid.

T Boone has Koito fight taped

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

BEMUSED shareholders in Koito, the Japanese car parts company that is refusing to give Mr T Boone Pickens or his 26 per cent stake the time of day, are opening their letterboxes to find a personal videotape from the Texan oilman urging them to oppose Koito's management at this month's annual meeting.

This latest and novel assault on the hearts, minds and votes of Koito's shareholders shows the tall Texan doing the sort of things politicians do in modern party political broadcasts. In the eight-and-a-half minute film, Mr Pickens, dressed in a cowboy hat, gallops across the Texas plains, plays roulette, does everyday things with his family. There is footage of T Boone as a child and T Boone fishing with his grandson.

This cinematic innovation could transform boardroom battles everywhere.

The Pickens video, which is being sent to about 4,100 Koito shareholders, blends appeals for support for seven proposals that Mr Pickens is putting before the company's annual meeting on June 28 with short sermons on freedom, capitalism and the American Way. It cost \$20,000 to make.

Mr Pickens concedes that the video will make little difference, because more than half of Koito's stock is in the



Starring role: T Boone Pickens takes centre stage

Continental investors accept bid by Pharos

By PHILIP PANGALOS

THE agreed £15.8 million bid from Pharos Holdings for Continental Microwave (Holdings), the USM communications equipment manufacturer, has been declared unconditional after acceptances for 79.18 per cent of the total ordinary shares were received by the first closing date.

Pharos Holdings, a subsidiary of Pharos AB, the Swedish high-technology manufacturer, had received acceptances for 2.63 million ordinary shares and 1.7 million convertible shares, representing 49.35 per cent and 53.36 per cent of each respective class, by the first closing date.

Prior to the announcement of the offer, on May 3, Pharos had received irrevocable undertakings to accept the offers in respect of 1.43 million ordinary shares and 4,362 convertible shares, representing 26.71 per cent and 0.13 per cent of each class.

Pharos Holdings held no shares in Continental prior to the announcement of the offer. Since then, Pharos has acquired 1.59 million ordinary shares and 1.09 million convertible shares, representing 29.83 per cent and 34.41 per cent.

Pharos Holdings either owns or has received valid acceptances in respect of a total of 4.23 million Continental ordinary shares and 2.79 million convertible shares, representing 79.18 per cent and 87.97 per cent respectively. The offers will remain open until further notice. Continental shares were unchanged at 22p, compared with last month's 23p cash offer.

Rise of 12.6% for Wintrust

WINTRUST, the London-based merchant banking group, revealed a 12.6 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £5.42 million in the year to March.

The final dividend is improved to 5.9p (5.3p), making a total of 8.7p (7.8p) for the year, an increase of 11.5 per cent. Earnings per share climb 15.3 per cent to 37.01p, and fully diluted earnings by 13.8 per cent to 33.66p. The shares strengthened by 12p to 38.5p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

35 jobs go as Avesco closes Spaceward

AVESCO, the USM television services company, is closing its loss-making Spaceward subsidiary in Ely, Cambridgeshire, with the loss of 35 jobs and at a cost of £3.5 million. Spaceward was bought in 1988 but ran into legal problems. Legal action was brought by Quantel, now part of Carlton Communications and settled in Quantel's favour.

Spaceward has probably cost Avesco about £8 million in acquisition and closure costs, losses and damages. The company will retain the intellectual property rights over various Spaceward products which were not the subject of the Quantel litigation, but the products' manufacture will be sub-contracted by Avesco subsidiaries.

Shandwick in Spanish deals

SHANDWICK, the international public relations group, is paying an initial £2.97 million for two Spanish consultancies, SAE de Relaciones Publicas of Barcelona and Bubbels of Madrid. There are further delayed payments depending on future profits, but Shandwick will not pay more than £6.2 million.

German banks link

THE drive by West German banks to move into East Germany continues with Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale (WestLB), one of the country's largest banks, setting up a joint venture with Deutsche Auslandshandelsbank of East Germany.

The new bank, Deutsche Industrie und Handelsbank, will start operating next month, when the two countries will move towards currency union. The start-up capital of the will be based in Berlin, will be DM300 million (£105 million).

Youghal falls into deficit

YOUNGHAM Carpets made a pre-tax loss of £6.12 million (£1.18 million) last year (profit of £1.990,000). But a charge of £1.4 million, due to the liquidation of the Dutch subsidiary, led to a £2.4 million loss attributable to shareholders. The cumulative shares were unchanged at 22p, compared with last month's 23p cash offer. The loss per share is 12.85p (earnings of 10.67p). There is no dividend.

RECENT ISSUES

| | Code | Price | Code | Price |
|---------------------------|------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| EQUITIES | | | | |
| AB1 Leisure (125p) | 150 | | Mrn Currie Euro (100p) | 100 |
| ABG Group (14p) | 185 | | Midland Radio | 157 |
| ABN Amro New Euro (100p) | 227 | | Mrn Investors | 201 |
| ABP Global Emerg (100p) | 90 | | Probus Inv | 125 |
| Biotron Ridge | 23 | | Qs House (100p) | 100 |
| Buckingham New | 87 | | Qs House Sust (100p) | 101 |
| Cable TV (50p) | 47 | | Torday & Carlisle (185p) | 168 |
| Countsford Tioxide | 268 | | Usd Uniform | 128 |
| Datesco Gp Nw | 57 | | Ventur Inv Tst | 11 |
| Dartmoor Inv Tst (100p) | 48 | | Wig Tps App | 211 |
| EFM Java Tst | 48 | | | |
| EGC German (125p) | 125 | | | |
| EMI (100p) | 97 | | | |
| Fleming Euro (100p) | 97 | | | |
| French Prop Tst | 99 | | | |
| German IT | 91 | | | |
| Henderson Highland (100p) | 142 | | | |
| Imperialrock | 22 | | | |
| Mabeyre Capital | 22 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Issue price in brackets. | | | | |

(Issue price in brackets.)

United Scientific tries again with foiled deal

By JEREMY ANDREWS

UNITED Scientific, the troubled tank and gun sight manufacturer, has renewed its attempt to sell OEC, its US electro-optical business, to its leading American competitor, Imo Industries. This time, the price put on OEC is only \$4.1 million, \$24 million less than last year, when the deal was blocked by the US Federal Trade Commission.

Disclosure of the sale attempt came with United Scientific's results for the six months to March, which showed a recovery from losses of £5.5 million to pre-tax profits of £550,000. The major factor behind the turnaround was the absence of £5 million exceptional pro-

vision against loss-making contracts at its Avimo Tauton subsidiary.

However, this factory still made operating losses of £962,000 in the first half of the current year, and the group interest charge more than trebled to £1.96 million. The company said that until the restructuring at Avimo is complete in mid-1991, the contribution from contracts will remain insufficient to cover the heavy interest costs.

United agreed to sell OEC last September after the time Meggit Holdings launched its £120 million bid, which it withdrew after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Federal Trade Commission refused to

permit the sale because it would have reduced competition in the supply of 25 millimetre image-intensifiers.

OEC and Imo subsequently bid against each other for the US government contract for night vision equipment, and OEC lost. This led Imo to offer a lower price for OEC, but it has also raised United's hopes that the FTC will approve a purchase this time.

The FTC's decision will not be known for at least 90 days, and the deal is conditional on approval. If permitted, the sale will yield United Scientific about £35 million after payment of deferred tax and will relieve it of a further \$10 million of borrowings.

Yorkshire Radio's profits fall

By MELINDA WITSTOCK

SHARES in Yorkshire Radio Network climbed 9p to 110p after the USM-listed radio station revealed that advertising revenue is now ahead of last year. A profits warning in April from YRN prompted a downward re-rating of the commercial radio sector.

Interim pre-tax profits for the six months to end-March slumped from £619,000 to £410,000 due to a combined 7.7 per cent drop in local and national advertising revenue.

YRN, whose shares fell 55p to 77p when it revealed a 45 per cent drop in national advertising revenue for the month of March and a 17 per cent drop in total advertising revenue in the first quarter, said sales in April were about 10 per cent up on last year.

"The future now looks much brighter," said Mr Michael Mallett, the chairman. National advertising, which accounts for 47 per cent of profits, is picking up, while the local advertising sales team has been bolstered with a new management.

Turnover was up 104 per cent to £5.1 million, but pre-tax profits suffered from the £400,000 incremental costs associated with the launch of Classic Gold, the popular regional service.

Interim earnings per share dropped from 5.31p to 2.82p. YRN, which came to the market at 200p last August, announced a maiden interim dividend of 1.5p.



Michael Mallett: the future at Yorkshire Radio Network "looks much brighter"

Beaverco purchase in the red

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Beaverco, already down from a 1989 peak of 380p due to worries about consumer spending, fell a further 30p to 100p yesterday on news of unexpected losses in its fitness equipment subsidiary, Body Sculpture.

Beaverco said that "a fundamental mis-statement" of Body Sculpture's financial information had occurred since the business was acquired in 1986, and that accumulated losses and reorganization costs of £3 million after tax would be provided for in accounts for the year to March 1990.

The company said that there was no evidence that the falsification had been done with the aim of personal gain, but conceded that the amount was large in relation to the size of the subsidiary. Beaverco's auditor, Pannell Kerr Forster, has audited Body Sculpture since 1986, but the irregularities came to light only during the audit for 1989-90.

Beaverco paid £500,000 on an earn-out formula for Body Sculpture, which imports exercise bicycles from Taiwan and sells them to mail order houses and retailers.

Beaverco, controlled by its founder, Mr John Lees, and his family trusts, came to the USM in June 1986 in a placing at 145p. It makes furniture, foam and garden furniture. After the Body Sculpture provision and a property revaluation, its net assets are likely to be £7 million, against £8.08 million in March 1989 and a present market capitalization of £8.74 million.

P&SN up despite depressed market

By MARTIN WALLER

A BETTER than expected fourth-quarter performance from newspapers pushed pre-tax profit ahead at Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers from £5.75 million to £5.86 million in the year to end-March, despite a warning with the third-quarter figures in February that the company would not match the previous year's figure.

A final dividend of 5.64p raises the total from 6.86p to 7.9p. Advertising revenue from the group's 19 newspapers rose by 2.2 per cent and newspaper sales revenue was up by 5.3 per cent, while revenue from contract production was 23 per cent higher.

However, the combined profits contribution from publishing and printing fell 11 per cent from £4.54 million to £4.03 million. The company said the more depressed conditions in the newspaper mar-

Programme setback hits Elders

ELDERS shares dropped six cents to Aus\$1.84 (85p) after Thursday's announcement that its capital return programme had been deferred. The shares earlier reached a low of Aus\$1.83.

Brokers said investors were disappointed at Elders' statement that the proposed capital distribution would not go ahead until details of a refinancing package had been finalized.

An initial payout of 50 cents a share was due to be made in July and a further 50 cents next year.

Profits slump at Dwyer

A slump in trading profits at Dwyer, the property investment and dealing company, resulted in pre-tax profits falling from £1.38 million to £286,000 in the six months to end-March.

Rental income increased by 29 per cent to £2.84 million but trading profits dropped from £1.08 million to £183,000, while other income fell from £53,000 to £9,000.

A 6.4p loss per share compared with earnings of 7.04p last time. Fully diluted earnings fell from 6.93p to 2.22p. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.5p.

Heavitree down

Exceptional costs totalling £271,000 held back pre-tax profits at the Devon-based Heavitree Brewery to £285,000 in the half-year to end-April, almost halved from £528,000 last time. The interim dividend is held at 0.6p.

Construction output up

THE construction industry increased output by 2 per cent in the first quarter of this year, for a year-on-year gain of 1 per cent, despite the reverse in the housing and property markets caused by high interest rates.

Provisional Department of the Environment figures published yesterday, showed that seasonally adjusted new work started in the first three months, while 2 per cent up in value on the previous quarter, was 1 per cent lower than the first quarter of 1989.

However, an increase of 3 per cent in repair and maintenance work boosted overall output to show year-on-year growth.

New private construction of commercial premises was only 2 up on the previous quarter, but 14 per cent ahead on the year.

High mortgage rates continued to affect private housing.

New work was 3 per cent down on the final quarter of 1989 and 26 per cent lower year-on-year.

The interim dividend is held at 0.6p.

OFT chief voices doubts about 'one-stop shop' control

Borrie warns over EC merger rules

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

SIR Gordon Borrie, director-general of fair trading, has warned companies not to expect "one-stop shop" merger control when European Community takeover rules come into force this autumn.

He told a London seminar that there would be many mergers where it would not be clear which "shop" — or regulatory authority — to head for. "It is possible that some companies will need to visit two or even three shops before they can be certain which is the right one," he said. He foresees doubts about the thresholds the EC has agreed for deciding whether a merger should go to

the Brussels authorities or national regulators. There was also scope for argument whether certain joint ventures fall within EC jurisdiction.

The Commission will be given exclusive jurisdiction over mergers with an EC dimension where the parties have an aggregate world-wide turnover exceeding £65 billion (£3.6 billion) and at least two of the parties have a turnover in the EC of £1250 million, unless each has more than two thirds of turnover in one member state.

Sir Gordon said that many companies would not have the accounting information available to say whether a merger falls within the thresholds.

He expected doubts too over whether a

merger with an EC dimension would raise competition issues in a distinct market in one country. There is an escape clause which allows national rules to be invoked, but the Commission envisages it being used rarely. Sir Gordon advised lawyers in takeover bids to keep in close touch with national authorities, just in case.

He underlined that his prime function after the EC regulations come into effect will still be preserving competition in Britain and ensuring that the consumer's choice is not reduced. All mergers falling within EC regulations will be scrutinized by the OFT to establish whether they raise purely national issues which might not be resolvable at EC level.

Why Cabinet is in danger of making a high-speed blunder



KENNETH FLEET

If the Department of Transport and the Treasury, which is pulling the strings, have their way, the Cabinet will derail the high-speed link to the Channel tunnel. A decision on the scheme put forward by European Rail Link will be taken in committee on Tuesday for approval by the Cabinet on Thursday.

It is still unclear whether the Prime Minister is in favour of fudging the most fundamental infrastructure issue of this decade. She hasn't said "yes" and she hasn't said "no" and she might still prefer history to humiliation.

If the Cabinet does not take the soft option of shelving the fast link until after the general election, it would leave Cecil Parkinson, the Transport Secretary, up a little-used branch line.

Initially reasonably well disposed to European Rail Link's proposals, he, directly, and his Department, obviously, have taken to rubbishing them. The inefficiency, in-fighting and soaring costs of the Channel tunnel project have probably given him nightmares. Fortunately Eurotunnel has no claim on public funds but it is worrying none the less.

Cecil, defeated by the detail of electricity privatization at the Department of Energy, has not had the best of luck at Transport.

Enthusiasm for selling off bits of British Rail evaporated a year ago and, with it, the Government's interest in infrastructure projects jointly financed by consortiums of public and private companies. Then he lost his Minister of State, Michael Portillo, who had handed on responsibility for complex rail policy.

He must hope that he still has the ability to "read" the Prime Minister. Otherwise some of his statements leading up to the fast-link decision will look extremely foolish.

Civil servants hostile to European Rail Link at least are consistent. The Department of Energy has always been deeply suspicious of British Rail and has not yet got the measure of its new chairman, Bob Reid. They prefer the familiar to the new-fangled and do not take kindly to innovative methods of financing. They have no real stomach for a fight with the Treasury over money and in Sir Alan Bailey they have a Permanent Secretary who came from there and understands that the Treasury is virtually guaranteed to win any fiscal punch-up.

Traditionally British Rail would also prefer to see a project such as the fast link kept in-house and treated like a conventional public sector scheme. BR is a 50 per cent partner in European Rail Link (Trafalgar House and BICC

each have 25 per cent) but the idea of a joint public sector-private sector venture came from the Government, not BR. But BR wants a new rail link with the Channel tunnel and chairman Reid, as befits a former Shell man, is acutely conscious of the value of private sector management skills.

Without them it is doubtful whether BR could cope simultaneously with the major engineering task of upgrading existing lines into Waterloo's international terminal by 1993 when the Channel tunnel is due to open, and the high-speed link.

In preparing the ground for deferring, if not abandoning, the fast link, Cecil Parkinson insists it was never part of the original plans for Eurotunnel. Under the Concession Agreement, the commitment was to service the Channel tunnel from the day it opened. The 1993 upgrading of existing tracks and equipment, at a cost of more than £1 billion, lent by the Government to British Rail, is deemed to meet that undertaking.

Compared with investment by the French and Belgian railways, this is meagre, unworthy and unambitious. It does not begin to meet the challenge of high-speed trains operating over a European network or to cope with the problem of congested passenger traffic in the South-east of England. The Minister appears relaxed about this problem as he cannot see the crunch coming before the end of the century.

European Rail Link believes that its proposals, which envisage the fast link operating in 1998, offer a comprehensive solution, at a discounted price.

At present 3 million travellers a year cross the Channel by the rail and ferry route. When the Channel tunnel is opened in 1993, traffic is expected to rise to between 11 million and 13 million passengers.

Traditionally British Rail would also prefer to see a project such as the fast link kept in-house and treated like a conventional public sector scheme. BR is a 50 per cent partner in European Rail Link (Trafalgar House and BICC

asked that the £1 billion loan to BR for the 1993 upgrading scheme should be left with European Rail Link, which would carry out the work, as zero coupon loan repayable over time.

It also suggested that at 50 per cent of the capacity of the new line between King's Cross and Swanley and Ashford would be taken up by BR commuter traffic, a payment in the region of £400 million should be paid, preferably as an up-front capital sum, for use of the track.

These conditions, it is said, were greeted with shock and horror by the Department. The £1 billion loan became a "subsidy," the £400 million, a "grant." Unfounded allegations have been made that the consortium insisted on a guaranteed return on its investment and an underwriting of cost-overruns by the Treasury.

Members of the consortium were stung by these clearly inspired allegations of wicked financial rape of innocent taxpayers. "The truth," said one, "is that the high-speed link offers an improvement in all commuter services from the South-east, at a discounted price, and a proper way for the Government, if it does not want to look ludicrous in the eyes of Europe, to discharge its obligations to Eurotunnel."

The game has become quite dirty. Cecil Parkinson has dismissed the Channel tunnel's importance as a "port" because it would account for only 6 per cent of exported freight.

By volume, including oil, that may be right but, by value it is grossly misleading.

He may also be right in arguing that spending billions on a 72-mile link that will knock 10 to 12 minutes off the journey may not make sense; but if the correct figures are 40 minutes at peak times and 30 minutes off peak, it would make sense.

As Cecil has said, the Department of Energy has made up its mind and it is now up to the Cabinet to decide. Perhaps it is too much to expect an anxious Government approaching an election to incur the wrath of the powerful Kent lobby.

The Eurotunnel agreements it has now been disclosed, also provide for revenue sharing among British, French and Belgian railways based on a time and distance formula. No prizes for guessing who will get to the pot last. Unless Mrs Thatcher changes the signals.

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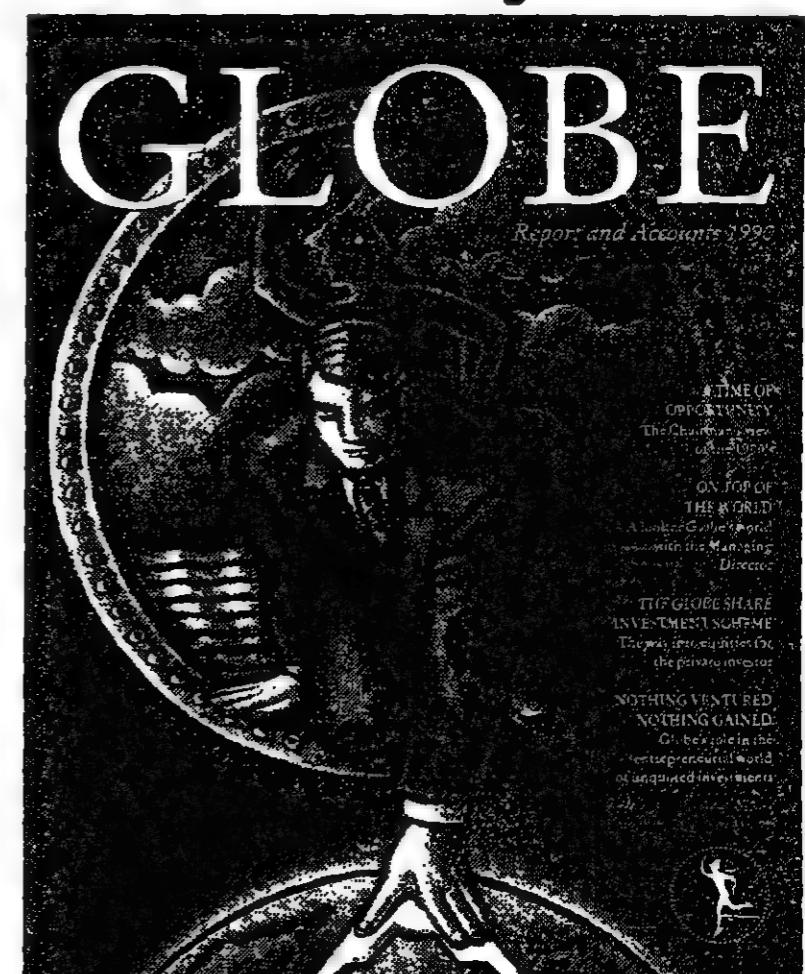
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

EDITED BY LINDSAY COOK

Provisional liquidator moves in as investment adviser disappears

Dunsdale highlights information gap

By TONY HETHERINGTON

THE disappearance of Mr Robert Miller, the investment adviser, has brought to light a gap in the information available to Fimbra and other City watchdogs.

Fimbra suspended Mr Miller's company, Dunsdale Securities, at 5.30pm last Tuesday, barring it from disposing of any assets, or transferring them out of the country. By then, Mr Miller had been gone for at least four days, a fact known to only one of his estimated 100 clients.

Mr Harold Sorsky, the provisional liquidator, moved in on the company's Park Lane offices on Thursday, and is been sifting through a list of potential creditors. Mr Sorsky said a "serious" amount of money appeared to be involved. He expects the total to reach £20 million.

On Friday last week, the one client who suspected Dunsdale was in trouble applied for a court order against the company. He had complained that he had been unable to withdraw funds due to him. Neither the client nor the court informed Fimbra, or the police, until the Tuesday after.

Mr John Pinninger, a Fimbra spokesman, said: "I do not know why the solicitors took so long to tell us what they were doing, and that a problem existed at Dunsdale. As soon as we knew, we gathered the necessary evidence at high speed. The suspension order was issued only an hour or so later."

Fimbra officials are un-

happy that it was possible for a court case of such seriousness to have taken place without their knowledge. "It has shown that what we need is a system whereby the courts, or solicitors, automatically inform us if an action is brought against one of our members," said Mr Pinninger.

There were no signs that might have alerted Fimbra sooner. Dunsdale was not a fly-by-night operation. It was set up in 1974, and was a member of Fimbra's top C3 category, empowered to advise on a wide range of investments and to handle clients' money.

Mr Robert Michael Gideon Miller, aged 39, was equally solid, it seemed. During his holidays from studying for an economics degree at the London School of Economics, he worked as a Blue Button, a junior stockbroking job.

He was known by leading City brokers, who thought highly of him, and for a time was on the board of directors of a small bank, City Trust, where Dunsdale Securities had accounts. Dunsdale, which he ran from smart offices in Park Lane, London, was his own company.

Behind the scenes, Mr Miller's personal life was messy. Although at least some details were under the impression that he still lived in a large house in St Johns Wood, a woman at the Clifton Hill property said this week that he and his wife were divorced, and she did not know where Mr Miller was living. Closer acquaintances seem to have been unaware of



Heart of the matter: Harold Sorsky at Mr Miller's desk in the Park Lane offices

any problem. Last Monday, one caller to the company was told Mr Miller was simply out of the office and would be back at 5pm. He did not arrive.

Much of Mr Miller's business appears to have been conducted with a comparatively small circle of friends and acquaintances, many of them wealthy members of the Jewish community in north west London. Investors say he

claimed to be able to trade in gilt-edged securities, bumping up the return to at least 15 per cent, and perhaps as high as 30 per cent.

Mr Jonathan Fisher, a solicitor who is acting for

several Dunsdale clients, said the amounts involved are "very high". At least one investor is at risk for £500,000.

It is impossible to know what eventual losses might amount to, but those close to the investigation believe Mr Miller handled at least £15 million on behalf of clients, and the actual total could be twice as much.

Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad officers attached to the Serious Fraud Office have spent the past three days in search of Mr Miller. His former home in St Johns Wood was searched on

Wednesday, and inquiries

have been made in Israel and Canada, where he has

with more complicated

Under the scheme, investors

are paid 100 per cent of

the first £30,000 of any claim,

and up to 90 per cent of the

next £20,000, making a total

of £48,000. The shortest time

in which claims have been

settled was just six weeks, in

the case of Allied Equity,

the failed broker. Investors in

Mildminster, the failed pen-

sions consultancy, are still

waiting for news of their

failed firm is £48,000.

In March, the Consumers

Association lobbied for the

limit to be raised to £100,000,

arguing that the present limit

was far too low. Claims pend-

ing from clients of two failed

Fimbra firms, JGM Financial

Services and Mildminster,

along with any claims which

may result from the Dunsdale

affair, will increase pressure

for the limit to be raised.

Dunsdale investors may

have to wait several months

before learning whether they

will receive any payment from

the scheme. The company has

to be placed in full liquidation

before the scheme board can

meet to consider whether to

accept claims.

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accept claims.

If the company is found to

be in default, investors are

sent forms on which to list

details of their transactions.

The scheme then works with

the liquidator to see whether

the claims can be verified, and

is then in a position to make

payments. The scheme does

not have to wait until the

company has been fully

wound up. In some cases, an

early tranche of payments

may be made to investors with

straightforward claims, allowing

more time to look at those

A HELPLINE has been set up for British Gas shareholders who have lost the gas vouchers issued between June 1987 and the end of last year (Lindsay Cook writes).

About 50,000 of the 2 million vouchers issued have not been used. To qualify for the discounts of up to £250 on gas bills, they must be spent by the end of September. One £10 voucher was issued for each 100 shares bought up to a maximum of £250.

Those investors who cannot remember whether they received or used their vouchers can telephone the British Gas Enquiry Line on 0272-394188 from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and from 8am until on Saturday next week. The service is only available for the week, although other inquiries will be dealt with by National Westminster Bank Registrars.

Lost vouchers will be replaced by the registrars free of charge. Those holders who have moved house can still use the vouchers to pay bills at the new property.

If a shareholder has died, the vouchers can be used by a relative with the same surname or living at the address on the vouchers. Married daughters can apply to have the shares re-registered to use the vouchers, and if they have no gas supply can transfer the vouchers to someone who has.

Those with many vouchers and a small gas bill can use them to credit their account against future bills. NatWest Registrars: Caxton House, PO Box 343, Redcliffe Mead Lane, Bristol BS9 7SQ.

Providing a tax-free home for cashing in at maturity

By LINDSAY COOK, FAMILY MONEY EDITOR

TWO guaranteed products from National Savings were launched this week to provide a new tax-free home for people cashing in matured certificates.

The 35th Issue National Savings Certificate will go on sale on June 18, paying 9.5 per cent tax-free over five years. This will replace the 34th Issue, which was launched almost two years ago and paid 7.5 per cent.

Investment is limited to £1,000 for new money, however, although existing investors can transfer up to £10,000 from matured certificates into the new issue.

The 34th Issue index-linked National Savings Certificates will be offered from July 2, paying a guaranteed 4.5 per cent in addition to index-linking if held for five years. There is a new investment limit of £5,000 on the certificates, which are also tax-free.

The issue will allow reinvestment of £10,000. Yearly Plan will pay 9.5 per cent tax-free on applications received after June 6, but the monthly contribution stays at £200.

This means that the thousands of National Savings investors who have complained for months that they had no new product to invest in when they cash in matured certificates will now be able to put up to £26,000 in the new products. Matured certificates only pay 3.01 per cent.

Investors who bought a full amount of each guaranteed certificate as it was launched could reap more than £14,000 from certificates maturing this year and a similar amount next year.

The 34th Issue will be available until the close of business next Saturday and the 34th Issue Index-Linked, which guarantees to cover inflation plus 4.04 per cent

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Discrepancies in share registers provide scent for the trail

FAMILY MONEY

SIR tracks down unwitting owners of forgotten shares

By BARBARA ELLIS

A LITTLE-known side effect of takeovers is the emergence of clues to the ownership of millions of pounds worth of shares and dividend arrears.

By comparing the two companies' share registers for discrepancies a few years after the event, specialist investigators can pick up the scent on a trail which can stretch as far back as pre-revolutionary Russia or Japanese-occupied Singapore.

Owners or their distant relatives can be traced with the help of public records, such as the register of births, deaths and marriages.

But unwitting owners often view approaches from investigators with deep suspicion.

When a Family Money reader in Sussex received a letter from Shareholder Investments Research asking for confirmation of his identity and address this February, he ignored it.

After a second request, he sent a brief confirmation. This brought a further letter from SIR, signed by Miss Maria Kyriacou, one of the firm's directors.

She wrote: "We have located an unclaimed asset held in trust which we believe may be due to you. For your guidance, this asset is currently valued at £7,500."

Miss Kyriacou's letter offered the firm's services in claiming the entitlement and explained that if it succeeded the commission would be 25 per cent of the total value recovered plus VAT.

The reader was wary. He said: "If I put up the stake money of 25 per cent of £7,500, there is a substantial risk of receiving an asset

which while normally having a face value of £7,500 could well turn out to be virtually worthless. If the unknown asset is genuinely worth £7,500, it is tantalizing to wonder if there might not be a less costly way of discovering its identity."

Miss Kyriacou emphasized that SIR operates on a "no result no fee" basis and always transfers assets direct to clients, never becoming the owner itself.

The firm charges its commission on the market value of the shares involved on the day they are transferred to the owner, plus the actual value of any unclaimed dividends.

The share valuation is at the middle market price — half way between the market maker's buying and selling prices. This means that SIR is at

risk of losing commission when the stockmarket crashes or slides during an investigation, but can also gain when share prices rise.

"We often just alert people to the existence of an asset," said Mr Basil Pounds, another SIR director. "They search it out for themselves and there is nothing in that for us."

In the year ended March 31 last year, SIR made a profit of £4,167 after paying its four directors a total of £65,116.

Business may decline as a result of changes in company law which have put firms under obligation to trace owners of shares and unclaimed dividends. However, as the changes do not apply retrospectively, the firm expects to have plenty of work for some time to come as investigations can last for years.



Searching for unclaimed assets: Maria Kyriacou

Glasnost opens new market in art

THE more open society created by President Gorbachov has opened the way to art and antiques from the Soviet Union coming legitimately to the West (Coal Gregory writes).

The opportunity to purchase good, reputable items takes place next week with a major exhibition at the Roy Miles Gallery, London, and an auction of contemporary Ukrainian paintings at Russia's oldest trading company, Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga.

Roy Miles, a fine art dealer for over 25 years, has made a speciality of Soviet art. He travels to all the major Soviet cities and recently visited the closed city of Podolsk, near Moscow.

Good provenance is essential, particularly since few Soviet paintings are

signed on the canvass. More are signed on the reverse and if Mr Miles's gallery has to re-line a painting, it tries to leave a window for the signature. Mr Miles looks for sketches of the original work and advises against buying from a central store organized by the Ministry of Culture. He deals with artists or their families and pays hard currency to Russia's oldest trading company, Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga.

Prices are rising fast. Over the past year, prices paid for the work of Alexander Rukavishnikov — a key member of the Leningrad Circle of Artists of the 1920s — have risen by up to 100 per cent.

On Thursday, Christie's will place the work of 17 Ukrainian artists under the hammer. Before an exhibition earlier this year to raise funds for the Chernobyl Aid Trust, the work had not been seen in Britain. Traditional elements of Ukrainian art, such as saturated colour and narrative, are evident. Estimates range from £200 to several thousand pounds.

Sotheby's confirms that there is an increased interest in Soviet art. It held a sale in Geneva on May 17, realizing over £972,000, and is to hold another next week in New York.

Soviet icons should not be overlooked by investors. The Maria Andipa Gallery, in Walton Street, London, reports price rises of 30 to 60 per cent over the past five years, depending upon the quality and the school of painting.



"Saving the grain" by Vladimir Nekrasov

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FAMILY MONEY

Royal Bank offers Direct Line to cheaper buildings insurance

By LINDSAY COOK
FAMILY MONEY EDITOR

CHEAP buildings insurance is being offered to the customers of the largest building societies by Direct Line, part of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group.

The insurance company this week said it would guarantee to cut by 20 per cent the insurance costs of borrowers with 17 out of the top 20 societies. The exceptions are the Skipton, Leamington Spa and Leeds Holbeck.

The move is an attempt to break the stranglehold the building societies have on this £2 billion a year business. Direct Line charges 16p per £100 of cover, compared with the societies' 20p per £100.

Many borrowers also gain the impression that they are not allowed to insure their homes with other organizations and also face administration fees of up to £25 and contingency cover if they insist on choosing their own company.

Such fees were the main complaint from society borrowers to Mr Stephen Eddle, the Building Societies Ombudsman, last year, and are expected to feature

I think we've got it all tied up



Let me show you a loophole.

GED.

strongly again when he publishes his annual report next week.

Insurance companies are also unhappy that building societies insist on checking policy details to find out if they are acceptable each time a borrower wants to transfer. This, they argue, is deliberately obstructive and a restrictive practice.

Direct Line has made a submission to the Director General of Fair Trading, Sir Gordon Borrie, calling on him to consider banning building societies from charging any fee for insurance being placed with an independent insurer.

It said: "As an insurance

company ourselves writing home insurance, we have an interest in seeing that the building society practices we have described are curtailed, if not abolished. However, our aim is only to ensure that Direct Line and all other insurers offering this class of business are able to compete in a freely competitive market: any other environment... cannot be in the best interest of the consumer."

Direct Line, which has launched an advertising campaign telling homeowners they do not need to take the insurance policy provided by their building society, is also offering to pay any admini-

stration fee or contingency insurance charged.

Anyone who bought a property through one of the 17 building societies in the last five years, and who has been continuously insured by the lender, is guaranteed the 20 per cent saving. If Direct Line finds new customers are underinsured, it will bring their cover up to the right level at no extra cost for the first year.

Two years ago, the Scarborough Building Society tried to poach the customers of the big societies by offering cut-price insurance at 13.5p per £100 of cover. But the policy insured through Lloyd's did not attract enough

Savings of £50 can be made typically by switching insurer and many companies are picking up new policyholders despite the reluctance of the societies to help. The Minster Insurance Group, which specializes in general insurance, said that thousands of homeowners were switching policies. Its marketing manager, Mr Jeremy Prince, said many were attracted by the lower premiums some insurers offered. These could be as low as 15p per £100.

He said: "Many societies add on extra like accidental damage cover, even though few policyholders are likely to claim on it. By offering such cover as an option, rather than including it automatically, we can cut the price."

Societies receive on average 30 per cent of the premiums paid by policyholders, which makes it good repeat business. It is not surprising therefore that they are reluctant to lose customers. Mr Prince complained that customers wanting to transfer to another insurer sometimes had to wait weeks for a response.

BRIEFINGS

■ A new fixed rate mortgage which pegs the interest rate at 13.75 per cent until November 1991 went on offer from the Prudential this week. For an arrangement fee of £150, borrowers can lock themselves into the lower rate over a period during which rates are expected to fall. Two months interest will be charged as a penalty for early redemption. The plan is available from Prudential's direct sales force and at Prudential estate agents.

■ Barclays Bank is giving away £50 music vouchers and an interest free overdraft as part of its new package for students. New applicants will be eligible for an interest-free overdraft of up to £250 for the first year of study. They may claim either a £50 music voucher from Our Price record shop or £20 in cash. The package gives them the right to a Barclays Connect card, a Barclaycard and a chequebook.

■ Fidelity is relaunching its Eastern Opportunities Trust as Japan Smaller Companies Trust next week, after unitholders voted in favour of a change in investment policy. The trust already has about 60 per cent of its portfolio invested in Japan, but plans to shift the emphasis to smaller companies. Many new companies are coming to the market in Japan, and Fidelity feels there is still a lot of potential there for investors.

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10 December 1989

Private investors hold Globe key

By JON ASHWORTH

THE £1.2 billion battle for the Globe Investment Trust comes to a head next week, when the Office of Fair Trading will decide whether or not to refer the bid for further investigation.

But the 37,000 private shareholders in Globe have been urged not to make any hasty decisions. Unlike other bids which tend to be dominated by pension funds and other large institutions, private investors together hold the largest stake in Globe after the British Coal Pension Funds.

Next week, the OFT will decide whether or not to refer the pension fund's bid to the Monopolies and Mergers

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FAMILY MONEY

Report points to demand and supply problems

Energy trusts boosted by long-term oil price hopes



Outlining problems of expanding capacity: Dr Subroto (left) and Sheikh Yamani

By HELEN PRIDHAM

AFTER several years in the doldrums, commodity and energy unit trusts have started to make a comeback. In the past few months, the energy funds have performed particularly well, and despite the current summer weakness of oil prices, managers predict that the long-term prospects are excellent.

The oil price is falling due to high stocks and a squabble over production quotas among the leading producer nations. On past form, this will be settled by the autumn. But with the Soviet oil industry in disarray, and huge volumes of energy needed to cope with the modernization of the Eastern European economies, longer-term demand trends look positive.

Save & Prosper, in its latest manager's report for its Energy Industries fund, outlines the possibility of an oil price shock in the mid-1990s.

The report says: "Both Sheikh Yamani (Ahmed Zaki Yamani, oil minister for Saudi Arabia) and Dr Subroto (general secretary of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) have highlighted the problems Opec will have in expanding capacity to match future demand growth.

It is doubtful that these capacity increases can be internally financed and it is unlikely that the oil industry will be able to plug the gap. Under this scenario it is likely that prices will rise significantly quicker than inflation, leading to the threat of an oil shock in the mid-1990s."

Save & Prosper is, therefore, positioning its fund more aggressively to take advantage of rising oil prices by increasing exposure to the exploration sector.

There are only three pure energy unit trusts, though most commodity funds have some kind of stake in the sector. The best-performing fund has been the Ballie Gifford Energy trust, managed in Scotland, which last year came twelfth out of more than 1,000 funds in the unit trust league and is up 32 per cent over the past year.

Mr Douglas McDougall, the fund manager, has argued that it is possible to make money out of the energy sector, even when the oil price is falling, by investing, for example, in utilities which benefit from a

lower oil price. But now he is taking advantage of the rising oil price trend.

BG Energy has 80 per cent of its investments in the United States, mainly in oil and gas service companies which benefit directly from increasing exploration. One of BG Energy's focuses is Schlumberger, its largest holding, at 8 per cent of the fund. Schlumberger is at the sophisticated end of the industry producing equipment for the electronic interpretation of drilling results. The fund also has a large holding in Oceaneering International, a diving company which produces mechanical diving equipment. This company is increasingly in demand for tasks such as repairing underwater pipes.

Mr Bruce Ackerman, investment chief at Lloyds Bank unit trusts, is less optimistic about rising oil prices in the short to medium term. He said: "The price is very much a function of Opec discipline, which they have shown again recently is lacking."

Other factors which appear to move against an improvement in the fortunes of the energy industry are the economic slowdown in the West and the increasing concerns about the environment.

On the question of demand, Miss Kate Medd, manager of

Henderson's Global Resources trust, said: "Naturally a slowdown in the main economies of the world doesn't help, but demand for oil and other resources from other areas, such as the growing economies of South East Asia, has been increasing much more than anyone expected in recent years and looks set to continue. The opening up of the Eastern bloc is also likely to lead to increased infrastructure spending and a greater demand for resources."

Gas companies are also likely to benefit. Miss Medd said: "Gas is environmentally friendly and is favoured by environmental legislation in the US. In Europe, two new power stations are likely to be gas powered."

Mr David Hutchins, commodity funds manager at M&G, also believes there is much demand for resources in Eastern Europe.

He said: "With their inefficient and polluting power

stations and smelting works, which may well have to be closed down completely, they will be unable to meet this demand themselves."

On environmental aspects, Mr Neil Hornebon, of Save & Prosper, sees higher standards as not just a cost, but also as a chance for profit. He said: "It will provide new investment opportunities and the margins on the better grades of oil required are higher."

Gas companies are also likely to benefit. Miss Medd said: "Gas is environmentally friendly and is favoured by environmental legislation in the US. In Europe, two new power stations are likely to be gas powered."

Mr Hutchins says another factor working in favour of the commodities sector is that after the lean times of the 1980s, most companies are much fitter and more efficient. But he admits that such considerations do not necessarily lead to rising share prices.

He said: "In the commodities sector, all important is the perception of demand. Sentiment can change overnight and send share prices up or down. Commodity funds are for those who are prepared to take a high risk for the possibility of a higher reward. You are much safer in a boring blue-chip fund."

First Charter has teamed up with NEL Britannia and Can-ada Life for the launch. The investment adviser is Credit Suisse Buckmaster & Moore. The High Income PEP is based on Exeter High Income Unit Trust, run by Exeter Fund Managers. Other PEPs draw on Grofund Managers' Grofund Equity Trust unit trust.

Pension potential in Peps package

By JON ASHWORTH

ONE of the most comprehensive packages of personal equity plans was unveiled this week.

A pension PEP was part of the package unveiled by First Charter Investment Management — formerly Dominion Investment until management bought it this year. It has been relaunched, backed by Ensign Trust, a £490 million investment trust, and has teamed up with a range of life offices for its latest venture.

Mr John Wilson, managing director, said that the plans would be sold only through independent brokers, not "off-the-page" or through a salesforce. Mr Wilson, who brought the idea of PEP mortgages to British investors two years ago, hailed the pensions PEP as one of the most interesting launches so far.

"There is nothing quite like it in the marketplace," Mr Wilson said, adding that the plan was an excellent way for high-earners to uncash pensions. It was also a way for people saving by additional voluntary pension contributions to add a tax-free lump sum to retirement income.

However, Mr Wilson said that a Labour general election victory would cast a shadow over the future of PEPs, although Labour seemed more committed to keeping them in some form. If anything did happen to PEPs, the company could offer a flexible, even if less tax-efficient, alternative, probably a more conventional unit trust product.

The minimum investment in First Charter PEPs is £25 a month, £250 a year or £500 as a lump sum. The charges on lump sums range from 5 per cent to 6 per cent, with an annual charge of 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent. There is another 0.5 per cent charge for PEP administration. Charges on regular-payment PEPs are expected to be structured in a similar way to endowments. A no-commission option is available to brokers who prefer to charge a fee for advice.

First Charter has teamed up with NEL Britannia and Can-ada Life for the launch. The investment adviser is Credit Suisse Buckmaster & Moore. The High Income PEP is based on Exeter High Income Unit Trust, run by Exeter Fund Managers. Other PEPs draw on Grofund Managers' Grofund Equity Trust unit trust.

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FAMILY MONEY

Beware the capital gains tax bill when selling property abroad

By ROY CANNON

OWNERS of holiday homes abroad can find themselves paying tax on gains even when the property has not increased in value. This is because the low value of the pound can make a foreign asset much more valuable in sterling and that is enough for the Inland Revenue.

Anyone who bought a Spanish holiday property just a few years ago, for example in late 1987 for Pts10 million at about Pts210 to the pound, would have paid about £47,600. Selling it today for the same amount would actually give a profit of more than £10,000 when converted into sterling.

At Pts170 to the pound, the sale price would be £58,800. Even if the owner goes on to buy another property in Spain at the same exchange rate, a profit is deemed to have been made.

A British resident is liable to capital gains tax on any gain arising from the sale of an asset no matter where that asset is situated.

In the case of *Bentley v Pike* 1981 in the High Court, it was held that as the unit of tax was sterling, the original cost and selling price must be converted into sterling from any foreign currency using the



A place in the sun: holiday homes may be more valuable in sterling than is realized

exchange rates applicable on the separate occasions of purchase and sale.

It is not permissible to just deduct the purchase price in the foreign currency from the sale price and then convert the gain or loss into sterling.

Capital gains are even more complicated where properties were bought abroad before March 31, 1982.

If a Spanish holiday property was bought in 1980 for

pts4.5 million, with Pts180 to the pound, its cost would be £25,000. Selling it now for Pts10 million at Pts170 to the pound, about £58,000 could be treated quite favourably by the taxman.

First, it is necessary to find out the value of the property at March 31, 1982, for example Pts6.5 million when the pound was worth Pts184. This is the equivalent of

£35,325. It is permissible to add indexation to this amount to take account of inflation. This would be about 60 per cent, giving an indexed cost figure of £56,600 compared with the sterling sell price of £58,800.

With this calculation, the gain of £2,200 could be covered by the annual £5,000 capital gains tax exemption.

This type of calculation would apply to property or other assets held abroad in any country.

The rate of exchange for the pound is critical and can give some odd results.

It is also necessary to bear in mind that other countries have taxes on capital profits so a bit of tax might have to be paid abroad if a gain has been made in that country's currency. Any tax paid abroad is usually allowed against the British tax liability so the higher of the foreign or British tax on the same asset would have to be paid.

Anyone contemplating taking advantage of the low exchange rate of the pound to sell any asset held abroad while resident in Britain, ought to seek professional advice on the likely consequences, both here and in the country concerned, before entering into the transaction.

LETTERS

Demanding excellence of service for good pay

From S.C. Procter
Sir, Mr Donald Kerr's letter (May 9) draws attention to the salaries paid to employees in insurance companies, among others.

We could be forgiven for expecting excellence of service commensurate with those salaries.

However, on April 5 I wrote to a well-known insurance company simply asking for the appropriate form to surrender a bond I bought

from them many years ago. After sending a reminder I finally received the form on May 16, which I suspect might only have been because my son, who is in the business, contacted their top man.

Now I am told that the amount payable will depend upon prices ruling "when all their requirements have been met."

If the price goes up I will not complain but if it should be somewhat lower than ruling

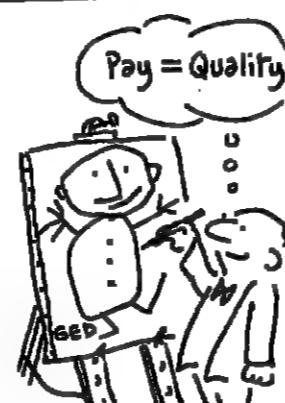
letter are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

I repeatedly demand this of my bank, and this sometimes causes strife with the tellers. Similarly, the posting of plastic cards is fraught with danger. I have repeatedly requested that these be made available for my collection in person, but, despite promises, this has never happened.

At least four financial houses have posted cards to

me when I have specifically requested otherwise in writing. If this is the head that British banks pay to their customers, I despair of dealing with them. Roll on 1992!

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE W. GRAY,
White House, Peak Hill,
Cowbit,
Spalding,
Lincolnshire.



Beyond fair profit

From Mr Alfred B. Clem
Sir, As a retired banker, I recognize the need for any business to earn a profit. On a recent month-long journey through Ireland, Scotland, England and Holland, my wife and I saw this principle at work.

When we went to cash American Express traveller's cheques at British banks, we were quoted a "service fee" ranging from £3 (£4.98) on a £50 cheque to £5 (£8.30) on £500 of these cheques. Mind you, these were guaranteed payment instruments, not personal cheques.

In my opinion, these "fees" go beyond a fair profit. They are simply price gouging, a trap for Yanks set by greedy British banks.

Note: in Holland, such fees are a simple 1.5 per cent. Yours sincerely,
ALFRED B. CLEM,
Sedona,
Arizona 86336,
United States.

Junk mail complaints rise

By MARGARET DIBBEN

COMPLAINTS about junk mail accounted for almost half the grievances taken to the Data Protection Registry in the year to May 31.

The registry received 2,698 complaints from the public, of which 44.5 per cent were about direct mail, up from 16 per cent in the previous year.

Mr John Lamidey, the assistant registrar in charge of complaints, said most were asking how to stop junk mail arriving and where the companies get names and addresses from.

He said: "We can normally trace back and find the mail-

ing list. We will, if necessary, get a name and address suppressed on that list."

Receiving inappropriate communications is another area of complaint.

Mr Lamidey said: "Time-share is the big bugbear. People receive an invitation to a presentation and the offer of a wonderful prize.

"But on the back it says you have to earn more than £12,000 and must bring your partner. If you live alone and earn £8,000, a year, you wonder why on earth they are sending it to you."

Sir Gordon Bonnie, director

general of the Office of Fair Trading, last month said more people should be made aware of the Mailing Preference Service, which enables people to have their names removed from mailing lists.

The Data Protection Registry can only look into complaints which involve the electronic storage of personal information. Complaints about the content of the mailing are handled by the Advertising Standards Authority.

The Mailing Preference Service can be contacted by writing to MPS, Freepost 22, London W1E 7EZ.

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 21).

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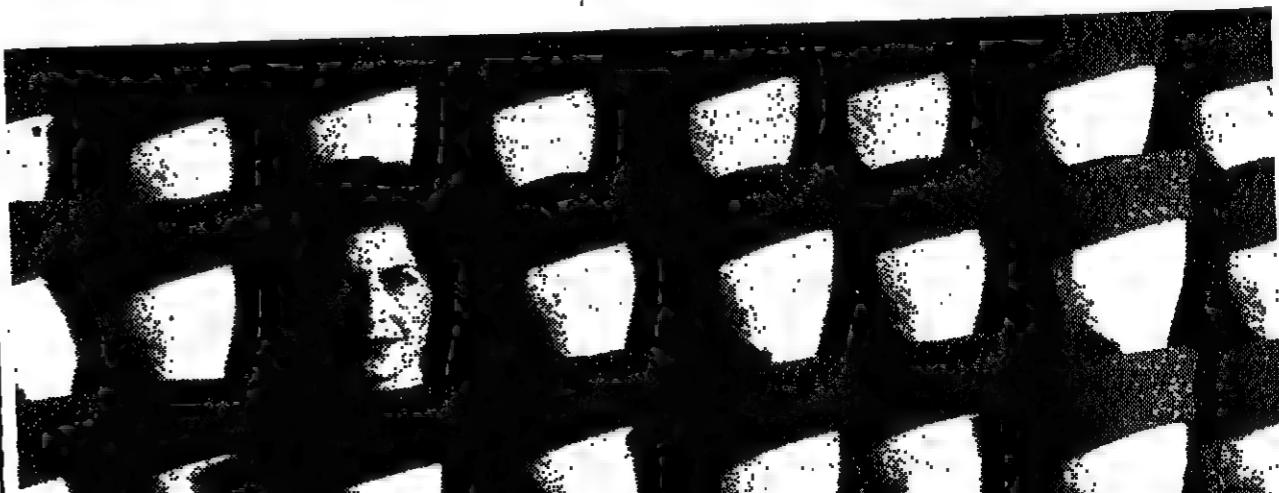
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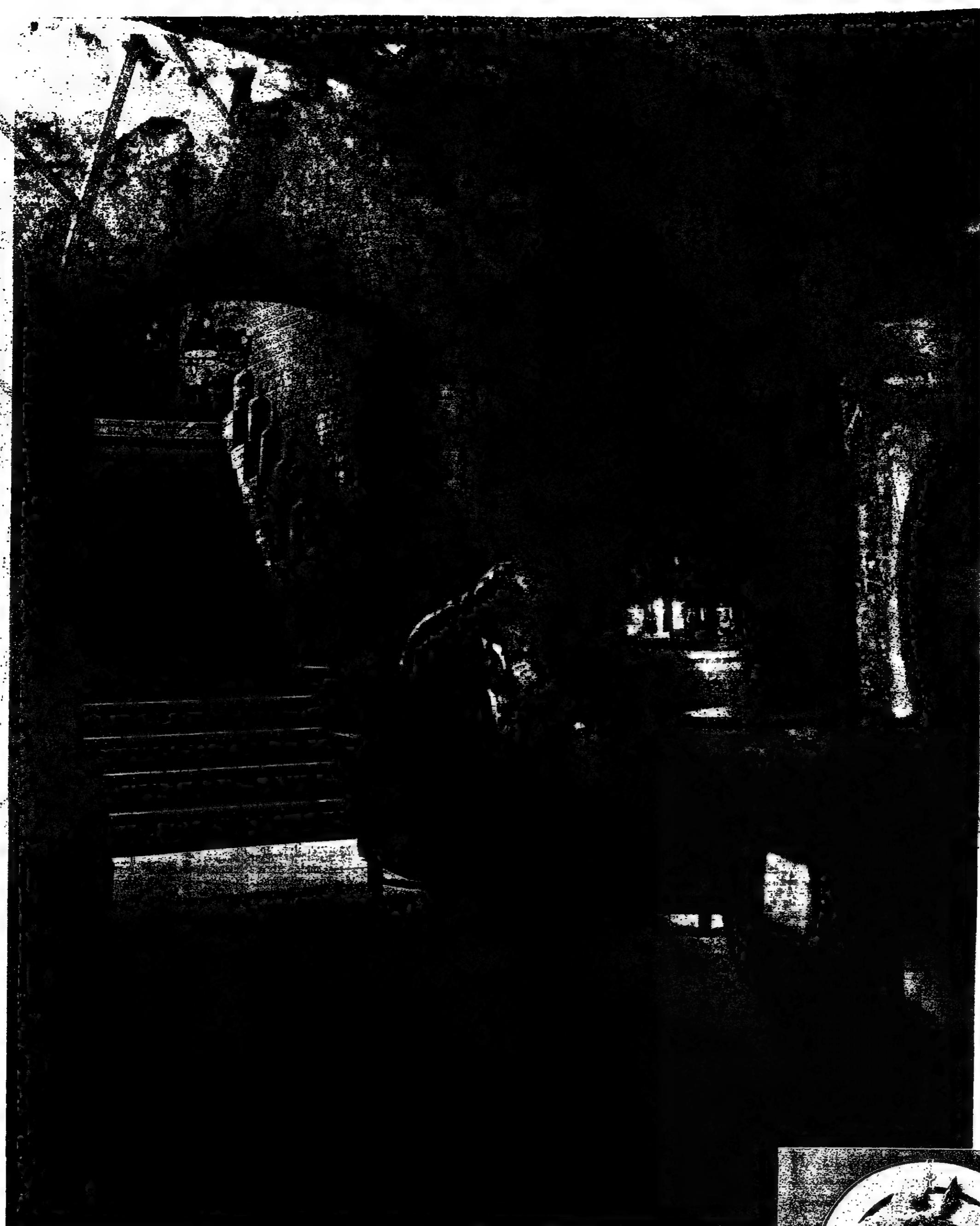
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THE TIMES

REVIEW

SATURDAY JUNE 9 1990

SECTION 3

PHOTOGRAPHS: GRAHAM WOOD/BRYAN COLTON



The light that now shines safely in private hands

When the people of a Norfolk village heard their lighthouse was to close, some feared the worst — and some took action. What happened next made parliamentary history. Brian James reports

Coming from the east, in darkness, the first glimpse travellers may have of England is the shaft of light from the lighthouse at Happisburgh, where Norfolk bulges into the North Sea. No matter how much further west they journey they will discover nothing more English than the battle just fought and won to keep Happisburgh's light burning.

Perhaps battle may not be strictly the proper term when victory left none defeated, for a campaign completed without a bitter word, in which one side often wondered aloud whether they were asking too much from an opposition that admitted freely it had offered too little. A campaign, what is more, that went to the Commons, yet involved no politics, was with the Lords and crept over the threshold of Buckingham Palace, yet neither boasted 'patronage' nor begged favour.

Seamen have not doubted the need for a light on Happisburgh cliffs since 1793 when 600 lives and 70 ships were lost on this then-dark coast across in the village church of St Mary, marking the grave of 119 sailors lost on HMS Invincible in 1801, shows that even the beacon built soon after has not always cheated the sea.

Yet, in 1988, just when Happisburgh was wonderfully how it might celebrate its tower's bicentennial, it had powerful voices declaring that the lighthouse 18 miles out to sea was no longer needed. Big ships today, said the distant authority of Trinity House, find their way

about by radio beacons or use satellite positioning, that archaic collection of bulbs and prisms in the red-white striped tower is costly and obsolete, put it out.

"There was a fair old load of local moaning about that," said Cedric Cox, who lives in a cottage in the shade of the tower but has been glad on countless occasions for its beam to guide home the inshore lifeboat of which he is senior helmsman. "But moaning was all we had. No one did anything. We were told there was nothing to be done. Then Kay came home."

Enter a local heroine. Kay Swann, then 31, and a marine geophysicist, had been spending much of her time at sea in mid-May 1988, she walked in to her parent's Happisburgh home bawling: "What's this about our light? Not needed? That's daft. I have been out there and I know. Who decided this? They've got to be told. And I'll do the telling."

In less than two weeks, Miss Swann collected 1,500 signatures on a petition, trawling the coast for every concerned fisherman and yacht-owner, every spring



'What's this about our light not being needed? Who decided this? They've got to be told. And I'll do the telling.'

Kay Swann, lighthouse campaign leader

Happisburgh, crab catchers. An old-timer. They will tell you there is a gap out there, that you have to see Cromer until you are five miles offshore. Do you want a few torpedoes on the beach before you return?"

Trinity House frowned, said it was most impressed, and would therefore postpone the breakup of the light, to give time for a reappraisal. But they warned, it was unlikely they could be moved, so if the people of Happisburgh wanted their light as a keepsake (the plan had been to turn it into homes for weekenders) they had better start saving their pennies.

Miss Swann went home and swept up family and friends into a fighting force. Her mother, Hazel, wife of a retired teacher, who became treasurer; then-chairman of the committee, described the mood: "Determined, but not angry. Anger would only antagonise people. That is why we did not go to the parish council, we knew they would have to worry about the effect on the rates. We did not go to our MP, this would involve politics. We kept clear of the fishermen, they were already involved in an argument about whether they must pay light dues, this would upset their case. We even decided to avoid having events at our church — the parish has enough on its hands getting money for the church tower."

But support flowed in. Mrs Swann points about her: "That lady living there needs the light to help bring in her cats. The elderly lady over there said it was her friendly policeman, he comes and shines his torch on her front door every 30 seconds to see she's OK. Down there, our crab fleet, they get their boats back up the slipway by the light."

Cedric Cox said: "If the light had gone, so would the village. You don't come to Happisburgh only by sea. Our visitors for hundreds of years have been told just follow the light."

He might have added that no non-local would have ever found the place by asking the way. Seeking "Happisburgh" produces blank stares: east of Norfolk the village is only ever pronounced "Hais-bro", the name found on maps.

The Swans and their supporters were now in full flow, warning of business losses, banks and insurance companies (what would it cost you if a tanker gets stuck on the sand banks?) they checkly asked the latter, and rambling collecting tins at visitors. They also wrote to the Duke of Edinburgh, Master of Trinity House, and have no way of proving or otherwise a story that reached them of how HRH put on his best quarterdeck manner when demanding of the Elder Brethren (Trinity House management committee): "What the hell's all this about Happisburgh?"

For whatever reason, Trinity

modifying. Why not buy the building, they asked the new Happisburgh Lighthouse Trust? It will be sold on the open market — but of course we are not bound to take the highest bid."

Mrs Swann said: "We explained they had missed the point — we did not just want the lighthouse, we wanted to keep our light."

But to run a lighthouse, you have to be a lighting authority.

How do you become such a body?

Well, that would need an Act of Parliament. How do you get an Act? Well, the usual way is via a Private Member's Bill. How do you get one? Well, if you are really serious, it's not that difficult. We set out all the steps for you.

A Bill, they soon learned would

cost at least £150,000, plus the proceeds of any village sale of plants or village-hall socials. The trustees — now Miss Swann, Miss Evans, a farmer and parish councillor, Michael Payne, a retired surgeon, and Neil Sanderson, a machinery designer — got writing again to the big banks, asking for a loan. Mrs Swann: "People were astonishingly generous. A bit more from local folk, more from visitors' cheques, from sea captains who had remembered spotting our light and did not want it put out."

Then came a letter from NatWest bank. No loan, but they had given us the £15,000. We could start our Bill with the public.

Continued overleaf

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THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN

For one night, I owned the Ritz

I have never been to a Royal Academy dinner before but, come to think of it, I've never been to a king's fifth birthday party or a musical celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Eisenhower either. All this, plus Hickstead, the Derby and two helpings of Stephen Sondheim. The summer season is under way.

King Constantine's birthday in and around Spencer House was very jolly. Lady Elizabeth Anson is an old hand at running these things, but planning a massive pink marquee with a placement for 650 guests on a raised ballroom floor, with field kitchens underneath, sounds a nightmare to me.

The royals were apportioned at one per table. The Queen had the one nearest the dance floor. At our table we drew the Earl of St Andrews. This was a particular distinction, as I learnt later he is the one member of the family who David Frost has not met. King Constantine pretended irritation because his son's speech, dwelling on the king's youthful indiscretions, went better than his own.

Before dinner I bumped into a delightful Greek who was admiring the flamboyant restoration of the Great Hall of Spencer House. "It is a wonderful job — and I know, I am in construction," he said. I ventured

a comment on the cost of this sort of thing, reminding him of the trouble there was in doing up the "marble hall" of the Ritz. They had to bring craftsmen out of retirement to achieve it. "Ah," he nodded sagely, "one very rich man to another, 'you own the Ritz.' He strolled on before I could deny it.

The pianist was playing Rex Harrison's song "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face" as I entered Spencer House a few hours after hearing of his death. He is released not only from cancer but also from near-blindness. When he opened in New York in *The Circle*, Marti Stevens sent him first-night flowers. When he rang to thank her he said: "So kind, darling, I can't see the bloody things but they smell marvellous." He had learnt the script of the play from a blown-up text with about one sentence per page.

A certain vagueness was setting in. A visiting English producer saw him during the out-of-town tour.



"How's Glynis?" he asked of Rex's co-star.
"Glynis who?"
"Glynis Johns."
"Delightful girl," said Rex.
"Haven't seen her for years."

ON SUNDAY I combined the worlds of showjumping and show business with the Nations Cup at Hickstead and supper with Sondheim at the Caprice. The Cup had as exciting a finish as I have seen at Hickstead. Great Britain just pipped Ireland, the favourites — France, West Germany and Switzerland — having faded earlier. In a fit of patriotism, the Master of Hickstead's wife had been feeding British beef to her French and German guests in the days leading up to the Cup. This gesture may have had something to do with the result.

At dinner with Sondheim I sought to authenticate the new stories I have collected. Madonna has just recorded his songs for Warren Beatty's new movie *Dick Tracy* and the attendant album. The session was held up because Sondheim was not happy with the tone of the piano. It had to be changed and then tuned. Headlines had been screaming that Ms Ciccone earns between \$30 million and \$50 million a year. According to a studio engineer, an impatient Madonna sighed,

whined and drummed her fingers at the delay, and finally moaned: "I wanna earn my money", eliciting from Sondheim a bitter, "Impossibly!"

THE other story is of an older vintage. At dinner after the first night of *Company* (apart from *A Funny Thing*, this was Sondheim's first Broadway show as a composer), his table lavished compliments on the brilliant score. Finally it was Leonard Bernstein's turn to testify. He found exactly the

right scalpel to twist: "Another Gilbert!" he enthused.

Sondheim would not confirm the stories, but then he did not deny them either. On the morrow, watching him at the National, enthusiastically introducing Maria Friedman's brilliant platform performance of the one of the songs rejected from *Company*, "Marry me a Little", I gave authenticity the benefit of the doubt.

THE best things about the Royal Academy's 221st dinner were not the speeches — except the president's. Where Roger de Grey's was pithy and to the point, Julian Spalding, replying for the guests, and Richard Luce, responding to "Her Majesty's Ministers", go to the bottom of the class. The Minister for the Arts actually trundled out "in a world where the flame of freedom is burning ever more brightly . . ." with a straight face.

I didn't know that you could have pictures accepted by the Academy and not have them shown. The Duke of Buccleuch told me he had submitted three, of which two were accepted but not hung — the other, a still life, seems to have been lost. He pointed enviously to a picture of billowing white cliffs painted by his cousin and hung prominently. He said ruefully that he supposed he would have to buy it.

WHEN I first started this column just over a year ago, the theatrical producer David Kirk corrected me on a couple of points. Now he is protesting about that Chips Channon story of the Chief Rabbi at Dunkirk time advising George VI to put some of the colonies in his wife's name.

Mr Kirk ascribes it to an earlier war. On the eastern front, Kaiser Wilhelm II sought assurances for victory from the soldier. He spoke to a patriotic Jewish German sergeant. "There were many in that war, as instanced by the middle-aged Jews with Iron Crosses victimized by Hitler 20 years later." The sergeant reassured the king, adding, "But I'd put Schleswig-Holstein in your wife's name."

It could be that the Chief Rabbi knew the story and was reworking it; or perhaps they both recalled the occasion in 1218 (researched by my man in Deal) when Genghis Khan, at the height of his Asiatic conquests, consulted a soothsayer who warned him, "All will be well, Great Lord, but I would still recommend that you put Tibet in the name of your second son, Jagatai."

AND then there was the Epsom Derby. I went to Sheekey's derby, which is more chic. You eat seafood and watch the gee-gees on television. Robert Nesbit, the old master of theatrical spectacle, has won two recent Sheekey's sweepstakes but this year, like me, he failed to draw a horse. Then he nearly backed River God because Cole Porter wrote a song of that name for *The Sun Never Sets*, which Robert did at Drury Lane in 1938. But he had no more faith in it now than then. He finally backed Quest for Fame at 7-1 and cleaned up.

EDWINA CURRIE

If I were...

If I were David Owen, I would quietly pick up my teacup and look longingly at the leaves inside. My future is obscure, I have to earn a living, of course, and I am beginning to think that the wise voters of Plymouth Devonport might just mark their papers in favour of another candidate at the next election.

The first question I have to consider is: do I try to stay on as an MP? There are definite advantages, such as an office in the best part of London, with free phones and postage, an allowance for staff, free transport between here and the West Country and modestly subsidized canteens, although Woy is quite right that they're better in the Lords. Now, there's a thought: if I'm nice to Margaret at Question Time in the next year or so (I wonder, will Mr Speaker still let me have such generous floor-time now that I don't have even the tiniest party to lead?), maybe the old batteax will do the honours in due course? I can't see the Labour Party nominating me; when I stand next to men of small stature, I have a sad tendency to put them in the shade. It happened with poor David Steel, and it would be the same with Neil. I'm afraid I just can't help it — talent will show.



... David Owen

Better not put the hair spray away just yet. Maybe I could do something on television? I quite fancy an important, up-market, mould-breaking interview series on Monday evenings, a sort of "Face to Face with David Owen", maybe? If Robert Kilroy-Silk or Brian Walden are anything to go by, then the days of grey-haired, middle-aged failed Labour politicians making a packet on telly are here to stay. I'll bear that one in mind.

I couldn't go back to being a doctor. I don't think I could bear real blood on the carpet any more. And the patients these days are so uppity — demanding to see their records and refusing to take their tranquillizers. It's all that Edwina Currie's fault. To be perfectly honest, I haven't taken much interest in health matters at all since I founded the SDP and became too important; I suppose I'd need a seminar from Kenneth Clarke on self-governing hospitals and all about the new GP contract before I could sign one. The whole idea makes me shudder.

Maybe I could try business. Now who would Cabinet ministers, I haven't privatized any industries, so there are no obvious candidates who would like me on the board. Maybe I could try the IMF — after all, 14 years ago I helped ensure Britain was a good customer. Perhaps my mate in Sainsbury's could whisper a good word for me here and there. But are dogs' dinners and jam turnovers quite my style?

No, it has to be a more glamorous business. A British firm, but something with a bit of foreign inward investment. A transatlantic tone would be best, but it has to be in London, and in a smart, modern, growing service industry. I've got it: what about publishing? That's intellectual enough, with the added advantage that even if I produce utter drivel all those silly left-wing writers will defend my right to do so. Now, here I do have a contact. One of the most successful agents in the trade is right here in Limehouse, and is in need of a secretary. Debbie . . . ?

SETTING SAIL

Life on the ocean wave

You really want to spend the best part of a month being cold, wet, tired and frightened? You must be mad! Such was the response when I announced my participation in the Two-Handed Transatlantic Yacht Race which starts from Plymouth tomorrow.

The stormy North Atlantic

is certainly a strange place to spend one's summer holidays. But I have been fantasizing about sailing to America for several years. It was only when I cruised to the Azores last year (thus qualifying with sufficient sea miles to enter this year's race) that the dream took on any semblance of reality.

People inevitably ask, why do it? Everyone entering this race has their own singular reasons for competing. At the top of our mixed bunch of about 40 entrants are the gigantic 60ft monohulls and lightweight trimarans incorporating the latest technological gear and built on huge sponsorship budgets, their skippers like professional racing drivers, travelling between race circuits with their own

back-up teams. Then there are unsponsored amateurs in boats as small as 30ft, without a hope of winning any honours, who consider the adventure and personal experience reason enough for competing.

Food has been a problem. My skipper doesn't eat fish and I eat little red meat. This has had me reaching for my vegetarian cookbook and working out how many bags of lentils we might need. With no refrigeration on board, most meals will come from tins or packets. Every item on the boat, from stem to stern, has had to be checked and, if necessary, replaced or repaired. This has included sails, halyards, electronic navigational and safety equipment, every nut and bolt, electrical connection and length of rope. Because my skipper and I both work full-time, these things have had to

be carried out by many others who have helped in preparing our 39ft yacht, *Piper Rising*, for her voyage.

As we cross the Atlantic we are likely to see more refuse and pollution than marine and

wild life. Every year six million ton of plastic, glass, metal and wood are dumped into the world's seas. Containers, bottles and drums, oil, wire, old drugs and outdated medical equipment are a health hazard and a threat to wildlife.

According to the Marine Conservation Society, ropes, nets and plastic waste kill more than two million seabirds, 100,000 marine mammals and large numbers of turtles and fish each year. Much comes from ships dumping garbage at sea, but small yachts plying the world's oceans are also contributing to the debris.

We felt that the passage was a good opportunity to draw attention to the state of our seas. We are asking other competitors to record their observations.

We are also aiming to raise money for the World Wide Fund for Nature's marine conservation projects by means of a simple competition among friends and colleagues which involves guessing the number of days, hours and minutes we will take to complete the voyage.

As the start looms closer, all the positive reasons I had for doing the race are being nibbled by what must be the usual anxieties that all competing amateurs must feel. I am as apprehensive now as Tracy Edwards must be joyful in completing her circumnavigation aboard *Maiden* in the Whitbread Race. The passage I will begin on Sunday in no way compares with her enormous achievement, but I am certain that I will experience a similar "high" — the magic of realizing a dream — when Newport, Rhode Island, eventually comes into view.

Nicole Swengley

A beaming tribute to the volunteers

(seen in our main photograph)

has been climbing the 99 steps, then the dozen rungs of a ladder, to inspect the bulbs, clean the glasses, check the motor and set and log the lighting-up times. Any time that light is not beaming through the dark hours, someone is bound to ring his cottage and say: "Charlie, your light is out. Best get up there."

In any case, the job is not done. None of us is going to live until our lease — for which we will pay a peppercorn £1 rent — runs out in 99 years. So we have to make sure we leave behind the money for electricity, bulb, paint and a part-time keeper. The cost of running the light is £3,500 a year now — what will it be in 2090?

For the past 15 years, Charlie Fordyce, the keeper

passed this way and noted: "Farmers and country people have scarce a barn or stable but what was built of old planks, beams and timbers . . . from the wreck of ships and the ruin of mariners". Today's Trust notices intone: "As a cliff-top village on the edge of the sea, we have a duty to show a caring attitude to our fellow men . . . particularly our local sailors".

And the local heroine? Miss Swann is now living in New Zealand, because — and this is horrible — she was driven away by persistent obscene telephone calls after her efforts to save the lighthouse resulted in her photograph appearing in the local papers.

This is the only ugliness in a tale that her mother describes

NOT EVERYONE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO 1992.

This young foal has nothing to look forward to. He's dead. He was trampled to death in the goods wagon that was taking him and 130 other horses to the abattoir. He was with his mother. Until she broke a leg in the crush.

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CONFIRMED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
"We have had a word with the others. Your Bill will slide through. You are safe." That day last December the Bill was passed, getting its Royal Assent on April 26, and making Happisburgh the first, and only private lighthouse of the 83 still ringing our coasts. And provoking a village bonfire celebration? "Not really," Mrs Swann said. "Don't go in for that sort of thing. We will have a Lighthouse Day entertainment in August to say 'Thank you'."

"In any case, the job is not done. None of us is going to live until our lease — for which we will pay a peppercorn £1 rent — runs out in 99 years. So we have to make sure we leave behind the money for electricity, bulb, paint and a part-time keeper. The cost of running the light is £3,500 a year now — what will it be in 2090?"

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has been climbing the 99 steps, then the dozen rungs of a ladder, to inspect the bulbs, clean the glasses, check the motor and set and log the lighting-up times. Any time that light is not beaming through the dark hours, someone is bound to ring his cottage and say: "Charlie, your light is out. Best get up there."

It is easy to believe he will continue to do this for reasons beyond the £100 a month stipend. "I have been out there in rotten seas, and on dark nights. I know what it means. These radios are marvellous enough . . . but there is nothing like seeing home with your own eyes."

In 1724, Daniel Defoe

as "a real hoot". She says it has been, "a sensible arrangement arrived at by sensible people.

"Do you know, Trinity House did not even charge us for the electricity we have been burning these two years? The marvellous thing is that it has never been a battle. All so polite. So English."

But a different England. An England of the vicar's lady carrying soup to the stricken, an England of the volunteer lifeboatmen and the squire quietly paying fees or buying the footwear for promising pupils. An England of obligations taken up because they have been seen to exist, and of small duties that are their own reward.

Therefore, the fact that perhaps fewer wrecks will be marked down for Haisbro Sands over the next 99 years is not the only reason for wanting to applaud the kind and continued shining of this light.

A CHILDHOOD: LORD SIEFF

'I was brought up by my family to get fully involved in worthwhile causes'

By Ray Connolly



Top shop keeper: Marcus Sieff (Baron Sieff of Brimpton) and, left, seated between his two brothers. "Our parents were busy, but we always had Friday supper together. We were a very Jewish family, although not orthodox."

It has always seemed to Marcus Sieff that he was born just in time. A year or two later and his mother, the formidable Becky Sieff, would have been too busy with the Women's Zionist Movement to have had him.

Like the collection of 23 antique clocks he keeps in his London office, this grandson of one of the founders of Marks & Spencer, and now honorary president of the company, always enjoyed fortuitous timing.

In business, as in all forms of life, timing is everything. But, of course, families like the Sieffs, and companies like Marks & Spencer, not only make their own timing, they are frequently instrumental in making the timing of everyone and everything around them.

In effect, they have the abilities to change the course of things. When Harold Macmillan was very old, he took Lord Sieff to lunch and told him quietly how he often wished the country had put into practice more of Lord Sieff's father's (Israel Sieff) recommendations to Political and Economic Planning. We would have had a very different country had that happened, he believed.

Many of those economic principles have been the basis upon which the success of Marks & Spencer has been built. Now aged 76, Baron Sieff of Brimpton has not only been a part of the

development of 20th-century retailing, he, like his father and uncle, Simon Marks, has been largely instrumental in dictating the course of that development. In a nation of shopkeepers, Marcus Sieff is a grand master.

He was born in 1913 in Didsbury, Manchester, into a closely knit and ambitious Jewish community which had escaped the East European pogroms of the late 19th century. His grandfather's company was originally Sieff and Beaumont — a textile company later sold to the management when his father became deeply involved in the running of Marks & Spencer.

Marks & Spencer had been started as a series of market stalls in the northern towns at the end of the 19th century with the slogan "Don't ask the price, it's a penny". But it was the collaboration of Simon Marks and each Sieff (who were to marry each other's sisters) that began the building of the company into the part of British culture which it is today.

His father told him it was a joyous occasion, but when he asked why so many people were in tears, his father replied that they were crying tears of joy.

At four, Marcus did not know what that meant.

Like his elder brother Michael (another brother, Daniel, far more brilliant than either Michael or I" was killed in an accident when he fell and broke his neck), Marcus was sent at first to Manchester Grammar School, where he proved reasonably bright. Manchester United was his football team then and he still regularly keeps check on their progress.

"We lived in a quite prosperous part of the city — in those days Didsbury was two or three miles away from the centre. I was not

ment?" came the reply. Until that moment he had not known.

"They were both very busy, but we always had Friday night supper together," he says. "We were a very Jewish family, although not orthodox. And right from my earliest days I can remember Dr Chaim Weizmann (later to be the first President of Israel) coming to talk to my parents."

His earliest recollection is of being taken at the age of four, in November 1917, to a meeting in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, to celebrate the announcement of the Balfour Declaration, when Weizmann was the principal speaker.

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"I answer that by saying, well, if it is good for business we'd be fools not to do it, but it's also because we have a responsibility to take care of our employees. I was brought up to be involved in worthwhile causes. And that has

been part of the philosophy of this business.

"We have 60,000 employees in this country alone, and we have found that if you treat them well and encourage them then they are prepared to accept criticism for work badly done. If you are always criticizing them, then the employees think that whatever they do is wrong.

"People must be praised and rewarded for work well done." (All of which is explained further in his latest book, *Marcus Sieff On Management*).

The other philosophy of the business was the notion of quality which was something of a shibboleth to his uncle. On one occasion when Simon went to Manchester, he took the 10-year-old Marcus around a store, talking to him as though he were grown-up as he scrutinized the articles for sale and made notes. "I caught sight of a pair of knitting needles which had no knobs on the end and asked him how you could knit if the needles didn't have proper ends."

Uncle Simon looked at them and said they were lousy goods, should never have been allowed to leave the factory, and should never have been put on display. They were not good quality.

A little while later Simon returned to Manchester and, while

staying at the Midland Hotel, had breakfast with Marcus. This time the subject was kippers. One of Simon's favourite dishes. First one, then two kippers were sent back to the kitchen until the third arrived and was just right. This kipper had quality, Simon judged. The lesson was going home.

When Marcus was 13, the Sieffs left Manchester and set up home in St John's Wood in north London. School now became St Paul's and it was while there that Marcus paid his first visit to Cambridge in 1929.

"In those days it was three-fifths desert, one-fifth swamp and one-fifth semi-fertile land with a population of about 300,000 Jews and 400,000 Arabs. And my first thought was how the hell are they ever going to make a liveable country out of this?"

"They have. There is now a population of over five million without the West Bank. I've seen the desert turn green and the swamps drained. To me it's a miracle of development, but a tragedy of the relations between the Jews and the Arabs.

"I can understand how some of the Jews feel, because I was there for three years, involved in the War of Independence from 1948 to 1951, but I think they were wrong not to take part in the peace talks that President Mubarak wanted. I used to think I would see peace in my time in Israel. But I'm not at all sure now."

Cambridge followed St Paul's and he did not even have to take an exam to get in. Bored in his final year at school, he one day began to examine the school roof and was unfortunate enough to fall through a glass dome on to a master taking a class. Summoned to see the high master, it was suggested that as all his friends were older and were leaving school, perhaps he ought to leave, too.

Relying that he was intending to go to Cambridge and was trying for an exhibition, the high master promptly pulled strings with the master of Corpus Christi and off to Cambridge he went, en route for a second in economics.

His degree may have been second-class but his contacts were definitely first-class. One night, invited to dinner by John Maynard Keynes (who was at King's at the time), he got into conversation with Sir William Beveridge, who wanted to know what branch of economics he was teaching.

"I'm only a third-year student," he replied.

Beveridge was nonplussed. This boy did not talk like a student. "What did you say your surname was?" he was asked.

"Sieff," came the reply.

"Any relation to Israel Sieff?" asked Beveridge.

"He's my father."

"Ah," said Beveridge. "That explains everything."



Hold on to your hat

Should the monarch be fortunate enough to have a winner at Royal Ascot later this month, a cry of "Hats off for the Queen" will result in the removal of a sea of top hats, each, these days, worth a tidy wager in its own right.

A top hat, a badge of position and privilege, might be considered an anachronism in the 1990s. But there is always someone left to impress, and the predominantly long-necked British male usually looks far less banal, and sometimes even noble, in an elegant tall hat.

Silk top hats have become increasingly scarce since the last manufacturer of silk plush suddenly closed his business in France 27 years ago. When the haters discovered his dastardly deed they were distraught, so were the rich young men who wanted to buy this enduring symbol of power and position. And thus existing real silk hats became heirlooms. Parvenus wanting to look the part for weddings and garden parties must buy them second-hand.

Many of the silk hats available are very small, having been bought new for 13-year-old Etonians, but those of reasonable adult size will cost £295 to £350 from Hackett in Covent Garden, and £450 (reconditioned and made to fit) at Herbert Johnson in New Bond street.

The market for men's hats, worth about £100 million in Britain, has undergone a renaissance in the last five years. Edward Bates, of Jermyn Street, reports a sharp upturn in trade, with felt hats and, particularly, panamas popular with young men.

Herbert Johnson, always

the most expensive hatter in New Bond Street, passed to a new owner last February. Anthony Marangos, formerly managing director of Cartier in Britain and of Laura Ashley in Europe, was attracted by one of the remaining wholly British companies with 200 points of sale around the world. He aims to open a second shop in Knightsbridge as soon as possible and a third in the City, with his own outlets in Paris, New York and Tokyo within five years.

"I don't want more people to wear hats," he says. "I want elegant people to wear hats. Then others will be jealous of their style and will come here, buy a hat, and walk out feeling worth a million dollars."

Most of the fashion in men's hats is set by films. Men still walk in and buy Herbert Johnson's Poet hat, which was shaved at the sides and folded into a deep crease on the crown for Harrison Ford as *Indiana Jones*. If there was not much spin off from Jack Nicholson's special purple felt for the Joker in *Batman*, the firm confidently expects a big reaction to *White Hunter, Black Heart*, Clint Eastwood has chosen a high-crowned elegant tribi called Grosvenor and Nomad, a stitched cotton twill that has been on sale for more than 70 years and which was a favourite of Cecil Beaton and Louis Jourdan.

Robert Gieves, managing director of Gieves & Hawkes in Savile Row applauds the revival in the wearing of hats: "There's the pleasant option of raising your hat to a lady," he says. "Perhaps if young men wear a hat, they will learn the manners that go with it."

Geraldine Ranson

Recently, I celebrated my 33rd birthday. In my early twenties, I came to believe that 33 was the age when youth disappeared and middle age took over. The slow speed on record players was 33 rpm, and this may well have influenced me. Keen to disprove my younger self, I went out and bought a copy of *Melody Maker*, the rock newspaper that I used to buy, week in, week out, between the ages of 10 and 23. This, I thought, would revive my energy. This would make me feel young once more. Then I read this:

"Magazine might seem like a distant memory now, and when the technically versed Noko tempted Devoto back into the public arena at the beginning of 1988 with Luxuria, it seemed that sufficient time had elapsed to at last bury that legacy and start afresh."

I read that sentence about Magazine and Noko and Devoto back into the public arena at the beginning of 1988 with Luxuria, and Magazine wasn't even the most distant of memories. I turned the pages in search of something a little more accessible.

"Unlike their more in-

CRAIG BROWN

Putting aside childish things



bother, I do my best to switch on *Top of the Pops* every Thursday, I tend to listen to Radio 1 in the car, and every now and then I buy a new pop record and pretend to myself that I am not disappointed. I turned to the *Melody Maker* letters page. "Revenge are riding piggy-back on the reputation of New Order, who in turn rode on the back of Ian Curtis's Joy Division," complained one reader, but I found that, however hard I tried, I simply couldn't make head or tail of it.

The news pages announced that Megadeth, Slayer, Testament and Suicidal Tendencies were joining forces for a Clash of the Titans package tour of Europe. A spokesman said: "Clash of the Titans will not be relying on stage props. No skulls or graveyards, no demons rising or corpses dancing, none of that type of gimmickry... when giant's meet, there simply isn't time for the peripheral rubbish." The highlights of my teenage years involved going to such concerts. "I really enjoyed Suicidal Tendencies last

night" would once have been my proudest boast, but now I could find little enthusiasm for catching up with them at Wembley Arena on October 14, even with the additional promise of Megadeth, Slayer and Testament and the unavoidable absence of Peripheral Rubbish. My wife, who not so long ago toured America playing guitar with a band called Terminal Breakdown, felt similarly indifferent. We decided to mark down that evening for a quiet night in.

My pleasure in recognizing the odd name — Madonna, for instance — was swiftly pooh-poohed by *Melody Maker* journalists, who have traditionally taken the view that the smallest hint of popularity is a sure sign of worthlessness. Interestingly, in all the music papers a "sell-out" is a term of abuse. "The average single mother living in a Vauxhall squat does not feel inspired by Madonna's 'achievements,'" wrote a journalist reviewing her new album, adding, "Be-littled and crushed, perhaps." Whoops, I remembered that, too, had always favoured the

unknown and the uncared-for, rarely buying a record that was not the product of a group which had broken away from a group which had broken away from another group which had become "too commercial" when their twelfth record had entered the top 50 at number 47.

Reviews which might once have sent me scuttling to the record shops now fill me with a strange sort of dread. "One guitar washes over us in great waves of delirium, the other cleans our ears with scorching solos on overload," writes one reviewer of the group Teenage Fan Club, but I no longer feel like sitting under a wave having my ears cleaned with a torch every time I go to the turntable. Another reviewer writes that "The Mothers' music is so cosmos torching you almost expect the sun to fly out of the sky, the moon to turn to blood and explode above our heads drenching the inhabitants of this fair isle with a million and one starfish". So if ever you spot a million and one starfish looking a little peevish, you can be sure that The Mothers have been playing nearby. A group called The Front are likened to Led Zeppelin and The Doors, with "the former's flesh and bone crushing intensity painted black with the latter's nightmarish preoccupation with death, violence, disgust and despair". In *Melody Maker* terms, this is high praise indeed.

I must now admit, with regret, that I was probably right about 33-year-olds all those years ago. Frank Zappa once said that rock magazines were written about people who can't talk to people who can't write for people who can't read, and this is some consolation. But still quite a large part of me wishes that I was back in the days when I could read that "Mazzy Star is reminiscent of the Junkies" Margo Timmins" and know what on earth they were on about.

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(7 out of 10 people leave it too late)

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THE TIME TO CARE IS NOW

OUT AND ABOUT

Knole, historic home of the Sackville family, is building on the grandest scale. Nigel Andrew feasts on its rich fare

TONY WHITE



If luxury is your cup of tea...

As with food, so with historic houses. There are times when you only fancy a snack — an Alfriston Clergy House, say, or a Coleridge Cottage — and there are times, particularly near the beginning of the season, when only a real blow-out will do. A Blenheim, a Wilton, a Burghley — or a Knole, here is a house reputed to have the calendrical total of 365 rooms, 52 staircases and seven courtyards. Nobody has had the energy to check all those figures, but what is certain is that Knole is huge — and in ways that go well beyond the mere physical scale.

But size is as good a place as any to begin. There are four acres of buildings here, stretching 500ft from west to east, set in a thousand acres of parkland. As you make your way across this vast, rolling estate, with its clumps of ancient oak and beech and its herds of grazing deer, what eventually comes into view looks more like a small fortified town than a single house.

Embossed towers and turrets and army of tall chimneys rise above long, surprisingly low roofs of homely reddish-brown tiles, punctuated by countless gables. The walls — including a prodigious bounding wall which encloses the gardens — are all of silver-grey Kentish ragstone. The whole thing seems — like a town — to have grown organically over the centuries, eventually nestling down into its broad acres, becoming part of the scenery.

From the outside this enormous house is, contrary to all expectations, the least intimidating of

stately homes — ex-stately homes, I should say, for it is now in the hands of the National Trust. The approach can be stage-managed as a sequence of transformation scenes, if you do it on foot (park in Sevenoaks, or take the train and walk).

The first transformation comes after you pass straight from the bustling, comfortable, traffic-afflicted town, by way of an entrance opposite the church, into a tranquil, unchanged and fairly improbable deer park.

The second transformation comes after you have gone through the entrance gate in the West front — a long, low range, just two storeys with gables, and a modest gate-tower in the middle — and suddenly you are in one of the grand courtyards of Hampton Court, or the quadrangle of an Oxford College. It is in fact Green Court, and there are more transformations to come. The three outer sides of this huge courtyard were taken on by Henry VIII to accommodate his retinue, for Knole was at one time a royal palace.

The inner side, with its (second) tower gatehouse, was built by Knole's first important owner, Archbishop Thomas Bourchier, in the late 15th century; yes, Knole was an archbishop's palace too.

Family ownership began — and ended, after three and a half

centuries — with the Sackvilles, the first of whom, Thomas Sackville, 1st Earl of Dorset, did most to create the house we see today. A man of enormous wealth, cousin to Queen Elizabeth and Lord High Treasurer of England, he spent £40,000 of Tudor money on Knole in one 10-month period alone, importing skilled craftsmen from

Duke of Dorset. The Sackvilles seem to have been disproportionately gifted with good taste, and the happy knack of marrying big money. Thomas Sackville himself was a poet when young, writing the first English tragedy in blank verse (*Gorboduc*, by all accounts unreadable). The literary gene, of course, carried right through to Vita Sackville-West, daughter of the 3rd Lord Sackville and a great lover of Knole (also the setting for her friend Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*).

Thanks to the keen collecting instincts of the Sackvilles, what has come down to us is not only a prodigious Jacobean house, but a glittering treasure heap of 17th century furniture in warehouse quantities, of gorgeous carpets and tapestries, and fine paintings, including Van Dyck and Lelys, and a whole roomful of Reynolds (he was a pal

of the 3rd Duke's). The room was always a showpiece, the contents imported from Whitehall Palace by the 6th Earl.

Knole, not content with one long gallery, has three, one of which hung with huge Raphael cartoons — copies actually, but good ones. The light, particularly in the aptly named Brown Gallery, is sepulchral dim, thanks to the Trust's conservation-minded exclusion of sunlight.

The Ballroom, with its breath-taking marble chimneypiece and exquisite ceiling, is one of the greatest of all Jacobean interiors.

Thomas Sackville probably used it as his dining room, but of course he had an immense Great Hall as well,

and just off that a grand staircase

clearly designed for show, with every surface painted or carved or worked in coloured stones.

At the foot of the stairs — nothing to do with Thomas Sackville — reclines the sexiest bit of statuary you are ever likely to see in any English house. It is a nude plaster figure of the 3rd Duke's Italian mistress, lying on her front, displaying a shapely bottom that seems, I swear, to follow you up the stairs.

Yes, in more ways than one Knole is a feast for the senses, a long and various banquet of delights. You stagger out at the end of it sated, footsore, in a pleasantly exhausted daze — and gasping for a cup of tea. Now I hate to end on a negative note, but I must warn you: Knole, the house that has everything, has no tea shop.

• Knole, Sevenoaks, Kent, open until the end of Oct, Wed-Sat and bank holidays 11am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm (last admission 4pm); £2.50 (Fri £3), child £1.30 (21.50).



Transformation chamber: the Stone Court at Knole, Kent

FARMYARD DIARY

Paul Heiney answers his critics on the way he works down on his Suffolk farm

The troubles sprouting from Brussels



Feeding time: Farmer Heiney with his fleeced sheep

I was advised early in my television career that "you should allow the critics to spoil breakfast, but never lunch". In other words, get the pain over with quickly and forget it. It was good advice, which I have adapted well to the farming side of life. My critics, of whom there are several, can make me miserable for an entire morning's mucking-out, but by feeding-up time I have usually managed to put them out of mind.

Of course, I have my supporters too, but one sharp word in a letter can negate a thousand words of praise. It's like that when you care deeply about what you are doing.

To remind you what that is, we have about 40 acres of Suffolk land which we intend to work by cart-horse, farming in harmony with nature rather than fighting her with complex synthetic chemicals, the long-term effects of which are still unknown. I am taking as my model the farming practices of the first few decades of this century. I believe that farming then had certain values, which have been lost in the name of progress. What I am doing is not vastly different from what is now known as "organic farming"; except for the horses, which are an eccentricity.

Since I first expressed those views some months ago, my mail has bulged with accusations of "single-handedly dragging the Western world towards starvation", of turning the clock back to the days of "farmer's lung, anthrax and off", and conjuring up a "Boy's Own image of farming." This seems over-the-top, given the scale of what we are doing (nobody gets vilified for putting 40 acres into set-aside, or building Alton Towers on it), but I shall give the critics a fair response.

First, I stand accused of romanticizing what were, in fact, depressed and exploitative times. "Where will you find the men willing to break their backs the way my father broke his?" asked one writer. I am warned that I shall be turning the clock back not to "the days when farming made sense", but to the times when "farming made nothing".

These themes recur. There is no doubt that farm-workers are always been (and still are?) exploited. But that is not part of our experiment. We exploit nobody. Wouldn't know how to start. It is not the social conditions I am trying to re-create, but the science. I am interested in a system of farming which was good for the land and, in turn, produced wholesome corn and animals.

I am not sure why critics are so convinced that my farming with horses requires the local children to develop rickets and pregnant milkmaids to die in every ditch. This small farm is not cut off from the outside world, not "self-sufficient" or isolated; it is merely a test-tube in which I am conducting a very pleasant experiment.

If it makes the more heated of my critics feel any easier, I'm happy to be dismissed as an eccentric, rural boffin. However, I might add that we

human comprehension and interwoven farming with social engineering and national electoral politics so that they can never, now, be untangled.

As I dimly understand it, the system guarantees a price for corn and then penalizes those who produce too much, having previously provided incentives to produce even more. Now we have a "set-aside" scheme to pay people to do nothing at all. So, if a deluge of money is needed anyway to prop up agriculture and ensure the supply of food, would it not be better used in supporting a system that has none of the distasteful facets that modern farming is exhibiting? I would quite like a grant of some sort, and I think I may be the only farmer who has never had one.

Now for the olive branch. I recognize that farmers get a raw deal. They are a heavily kicked ball in the cross-Channel game of European politics. And, just as a punch-drunk victim will lash out at anybody who gets in his way, I see why they should find me such an inviting target.

A Yorkshire farmer's wife explained why our farming experiment gives rise to angry outbursts. "It's because so many farmers just wish they could do what you are doing," she said. "pull up the drawbridge and get on with it. They're sick of the stupid system too, and simply want to farm."

So that is what we are doing for all of them. Since Brussels will not help financially, and we do not have the knack of exploiting anyone yet, our experiment is heavily subsidized by forays back into television and journalism.

However, the farm's first,

tiny income was earned this week, by 15 gallant sheep, which, after some skittish reluctance, allowed themselves to be deprived of their fleeces. They are now looking naked and deceptively innocent. I am told, insultingly, that their wool will probably be "good only for carpets". Something I can chew on in frustration, perhaps, when the next lot of letters comes in.

OUTINGS

The archers — a medieval story

Shrewsbury in the shadow of Henry V: living history event with re-runs of the battles of Shrewsbury and Agincourt. Trial by combat and archery championships between the Marcher Lords and the Shrewsbury Archers. Also falconry, early gunnery, the arming of a knight, period music and crafts. Shrewsbury Castle. Today, tomorrow 2.30-5.30pm; £2, child £1. Information on 0743 50761.

BALLOON AND BENTLEY FIESTA: Twenty-five hot-air balloons with pilots from Great Britain, France, Germany and America, and the International balloonist Peter Lindstrand; 25 Bentleys, belonging to the Bentley Drivers' Club, act as ferries between the castle and balloon landing points. Flights early morning and late afternoon. Full refreshments, including early morning breakfast, and champagne marques. £12. With the Syd Lawrence Orchestra at the home of Sir Winston Churchill, now managed by the National Trust. Picnic on the lake or book a restaurant table. Charlton, Westerham, Kent. Tonight 8.30am-2pm; £20 bookable on 0732 865388.

SINGLETON HEAVY HORSE DAY: More than 40 horses representing all the heavy breeds, plus the Whithbread shires from the City of London, and other turnouts including horse-drawn pantomimes. Competitions from noon, grand parade 4pm. West and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, Sussex. Tomorrow. Information on 0243 83348.

SSAFA INTERNATIONAL DISPLAY: Organized by the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association, an International airshow with Nato air forces and civilian aerobatic and military displays. Pleasure flights. RAF Church Fenton, near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. Tomorrow. Gates open 9am, flying 1.5-3pm; £5, child £1.50 under-fives free.

MYATT'S FIELDS FAIR: Organized by Myatt's Conservation Association to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the opening of the park. Displays, local stalls, music and children's entertainments. Refreshments. Myatt's Fields Park, Knatchbull Road, London SE5. Today 2-6pm; free. Information on 071 733 0711.

FORTH ANNUAL WOODEN BOAT SHOW: Traditional wooden boats on display, with boat builders and marine chandlers. The Captain Cook exhibition and newly-restored Queen's House are worth a visit. National Maritime Museum, Park Row, London SE1 081-858 4422. Today, tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Admission to boat show free. Passport ticket to the museum, Old Royal Observatory, Queen's House and exhibitions, 28, child £3.

BRAMHAM INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS AND COUNTRY FAIR: Cross-country all day today. Tomorrow, finals of the three-day showjumping event, and plus two BHS showjumping classes with internationally famous riders such as Harvey Smith, taking part and the country fair. Bramham Park, Wetherby, West Yorkshire (0937 844285). Today (25), child £2.50, tomorrow (26), child £2.50. Include displays, exhibitions, slideshows and stalls. Santon, Cornwall. Today, tomorrow. Information on 0732 84268. MUSIC MEMORIES AND MOONLIGHT: Dance the night away with the Syd Lawrence Orchestra at the home of Sir Winston Churchill, now managed by the National Trust. Picnic on the lake or book a restaurant table. Charlton, Westerham, Kent. Tonight 8.30am-2pm; £20 bookable on 0732 865388.

Judy Froshaug

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EATING OUT

Jonathan Meades explores the difference between aspirant English exquisiteness and sheer Japanese virtuosity

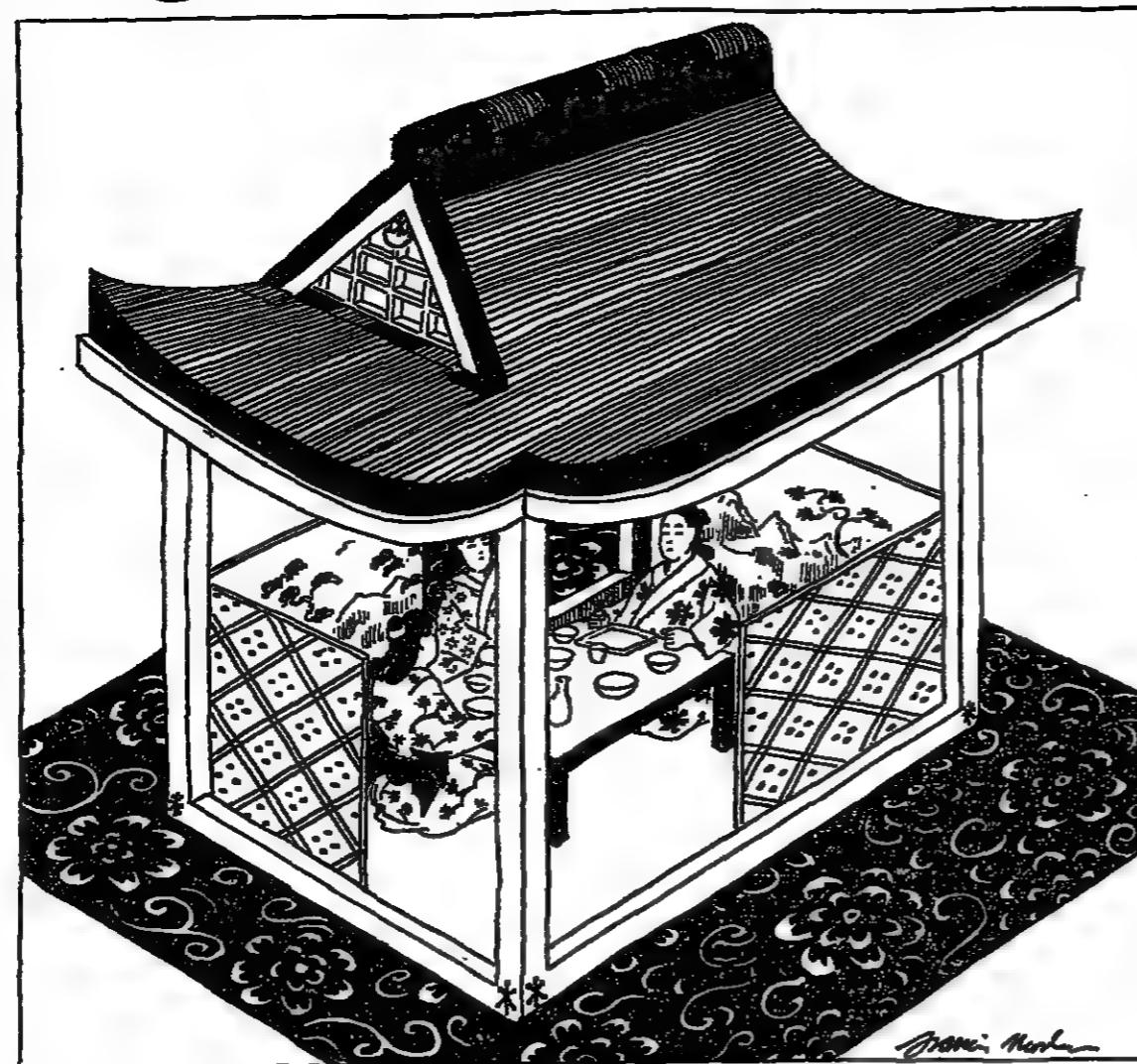
Dining in the doll's house

The unmitigatedly exquisite is a gastronomic idiom that is today less zealously pursued by the mass of professional cooks than it was in the past. The exquisite has, rather oddly, become the province of the ambitious home cook. I can think of a novelist in Dartmouth Park, a lexicographer and a psychotherapist in Maida Hill, a nephrologist's wife in Camberwell, a designer's husband in Vauxhall, all of whom cook not merely with prowess and invention but with purposeful elaboration. These people belong to a particular stratum of the metropolitan middle class and it is, I suggest, no coincidence that such chefs as Rowley Leigh at Kensington Place, Alastair Little in Soho, and Simon Hopkinson at Bibendum have enjoyed such success and acclaim; they are of that class and are, if you like, cooking for their own kind, their own people. They know the form, are insouciantly attuned to the gastronomic consensus. Their infrequent forays into the exquisite are sure-footedly based in a tradition they have invented for themselves.

The aspirant exquisiteness of the cooking at McClements at Twickenham Green is not, perhaps, so soundly founded. Everything is at the same pitch of elaboration; there is no relief, no chiaroscuro. And while some of it is very well flavoured, there seems to be as much concentration applied to the achievement of daintiness, which is not exquisiteness at all. It is all rather reminiscent of doll's house food. The chef-proprietor of this tiny and rather twee restaurant at a busy junction (sit in the window for long enough and you'll convince yourself that a bus is going to come through it) either lacks a measure of boldness or keeps himself too tight a rein.

The place is within a whisker of being really rather estimable, but so long as it persists with such practices as "garnishing" black pudding in pastry with half a quail's egg or serving a thumbful of couscous with chicken it will not be of much more than parochial interest. The black pudding was first-rate though, and apparently home-made. The chicken dish was further let down by the indifferent quality of the fowl itself.

Needless to say, everything here is fancily laid out. Design is given as much emphasis as content. I think that this actually lessens the appeal of certain dishes. Lamb with an aubergine charlotte was fine but would have been no less fine had it not been mugged by a window-



dresser. The same might be said of a dish of scallops with ratatouille. All the time spent on creating minute vegetable dice is time wasted. The puddings and the sweets with coffee are, predictably, outstanding.

Fussiness seems appropriate here. A plate of mini-portions of crème caramel, blackcurrant mouse, three sorts of chocolate mousse, raspberry millefeuille etc was tremendous: Mr McClements has the lightest touch. And his truffles and chocolates are probably as good as you'll get in this country. He is a truly talented confectioner.

He is a less talented buyer of wine. The list is clearly aimed at "special occasion" diners. There is very little worth drinking under £20, and though there is a fair selection of half bottles they are not cheap. A half of English-bottled 1971 Ch Cos-Labory was no good and was

replaced without demur by a half of 1970 Ch Cissac, which was a bit more like it. With nothing else to drink, the bill for two, including a 10 per cent service charge, was £84.

The gulf between mock exquisiteness and the real could hardly be more patently illuminated than by contrasting McClements with a newish Japanese establishment called Nakano. This occupies a basement in Beauchamp Place that used to house an outfit called Ports,

McCLEMENTS

★★★★★
12, The Green, Twickenham, Middlesex (081-755 0176). Lunch Tues to Fri, dinner Tues to Sat £20. Set lunch £50. Major cards.

NAKANO

★★★★★
11 Beauchamp Place, SW3 (071-581 3837). Lunch and dinner Tues to Sat £80. Major cards.

which was almost certainly the best Portuguese place in town. Nakano is very likely the best Japanese place in town. No attempt has been made to lay on national colour. The point of the place is the cooking alone. The menu is an inventory of the bizarre, the rare, the recherche. The imagination behind it possesses the toughness and rigour of real dandysim.

Because the majority of London-Japanese restaurants are formulaic and confine themselves to a limited repertoire, and because I have not been to Japan, I have no real measure by which to gauge Nakano's chef Saburo Kikuchi. I do not know for instance whether he produces dishes of his own devising or whether his *outré* creations belong to the normal store and would seem commonplace in Tokyo or Osaka. Either way, it is

impossible not to discern the sheer audaciousness of many dishes and the sheer virtuosity of their maker. The cooking combines, with fastidious abandon, the subtle and the delectably brutal, and thus more accurately mirrors Japan, or a particular conception of that country, than the usual run of tempura and noodles does. This cooking seems congruent with the culture that it comes from.

But it is not its exotica and its strangeness which render the cooking exquisite; that quality is intrinsic. It is the very quiddity of this cooking, not its unfamiliarity, that distinguishes it. Nakano offers a number of standard or standard-sounding dishes as well as arcana. But even tempura gets a twist: the battered vegetables include asparagus, nettle leaves, chillies. French beans wrapped in seaweed. White noodles are served with flecks of batter, strands of seaweed and an unusually gentle rice vinegar. This is classy nursery food.

A number of the dishes make the blandness of a peculiarly white and very delicate bean curd with items of the utmost piquancy or strength. Salmon entrails for instance. These are pureed, the colour of Burgundy mixed with squid ink, and belly-ripened game. If you like jugged hare, cod liver oil and things of that ilk this should appeal. Another bean curd dish is done with cod roe and chilli; a classic Mutt and Jeff combo. Cod roe appears again as a sort of dressing on cuttle fish. Sea cucumber: this is like eating a piece of evolution dressed with ginger and vinegar. Hokkai fish is vaguely akin in flavour to salt cod but inferior to the salt cod. Ports used to do Dried sardine fry resemble microscopically reviewed spermatozoa; they are vermicelli-like and totally delicious. Grilled salmon skin is deliberately made un-crisp by something called ponzu vinegar. Rubbery fishcake is krinkle-cut and an improvement on the usual. Balls of, apparently, mashed potato are fried in flour. Raw tuna is served with grated yam. Cooked tuna is of the density and sweetness of pork cooked for hours.

All these dishes are served in small "tasting" portions. With two Sapporo beers and a green tea ice-cream, two will pay about £80.

This is a restaurant which will go some way towards reforming its customers' conceptions of Japanese cooking and, I think, of Japan itself. And in a bistro, more utilitarian way, it is enjoyable and endlessly fascinating.

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices on this page are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first: J.M.

DIRECTORY

Chasneys

★★★
22 St Christopher's Place, London W1 (071-486 0777)
Cavernous Thai basement. The spicing is ferocious. Be warned. Much of the cooking is impressive — Chinese sausage salad, beef with hot basil and noodles etc. £24.

WEST LONDON

Kensington Place

★★★★★
201 Kensington Church Street, London W1 (071-727 3184)
Large, loud, vital. This is a mould-breaking, metropolitan venue of that ilk. It is fashionable precisely because of its coolness — like, say, Langans — despite it. A combination of chef (Rowley Leigh), restauranteurs (Peter and Nicholas Mathewson) and owner (Julian Wickham) has created something far beyond a mere showplace for kitchen excellence. Nowhere else in London offers such cooking at such prices. Nowhere else in London is so good in its clientele. The restaurant's success suggests it may become a classic, the way great Paris brasseries have, but the cooking is better than that of any brasserie on earth. Mr Leigh is the most intelligent English chef I have ever met. His inventiveness are remarkable: chicken and goat cheese mousse; warm oysters with cucumber; wild rice with charred leeks; tongue with horseradish sauce. The sweets are ace, the wines well chosen and inexpensive. The entire operation makes most *sophis* diners grand restaurants look meagre. Also: great classic cocktails. £50-£80, £35 at lunchtime.

THAI

Bahn Thai

★★★★★
21a Fifth Street, London W1 (071-437 8504)
Gummeles, gloomy but commendable because the cooking of standard issue dishes is sound and because the menu goes way beyond the usual repertoire into trotter dishes and duck's feet. The green curry is probably the finest in London, and one should drink wine with Thai food but, in case someone should want to, there is a singularly impressive list. Without wine: £24.

Thai Pavilion

★★★
42 Rupert Street, London W1 (071-287 8303)
Elegant restaurant, variable cooking. The pad krapow in pandan leaves is worth investigation and so is the prawn soup. Better give a miss to the greasily battered deep-fried veg and the indifferent satay. Service is rather chaotic and very slow. £24.

Bedlington Café

★★★
24 Fulham Road, London W4 (081-994 1965)
By day a greasy caff, by night a Thai diner. The Thai cooking has some affinities with greasy cooking — notably in the deep-fried battered fish. Sea cucumber: this is like eating a piece of evolution dressed with ginger and vinegar. Hokkai fish is vaguely akin in flavour to salt cod but inferior to the salt cod. Pots used to do Dried sardine fry resemble microscopically reviewed spermatozoa; they are vermicelli-like and totally delicious. Grilled salmon skin is deliberately made un-crisp by something called ponzu vinegar. Rubbery fishcake is krinkle-cut and an improvement on the usual. Balls of, apparently, mashed potato are fried in flour. Raw tuna is served with grated yam. Cooked tuna is of the density and sweetness of pork cooked for hours.

Sri Siam

★★★★★
14 Old Compton Street, London W1 (071-434 2544)
Thai cooking done with European mind and palate in mind for it. The restaurant is long, narrow, noisy and rather effortfully decorated. The cooking, with the exception of staples, is impressive: tempura of vegetables, fine fish cakes, marvellous "red" curry, fried beef with coriander and mint. £20-£25.

The Blue Elephant

★★★★★
4 Fulham Broadway, London SW6 (071-385 6555)
Offshoot of Brussels' top Thai restaurant and the cookery is mediated by Belgian nous. It is thus far from the peasant-based peer of most Thai places. Marvelous grilled scallops, fish cakes and satay owe as much to Belgium as to Thailand. Omelettes with ginger and garlic and beef with chili and baby shrimplings. The place is jolly: stuck-jowl and pants and the service is by boys in martial uniform. Expensive wines. £20.

FOOD

Quaintly curved carrots

A new survey shows customers prefer taste to looks, Robin Young writes



They pay dearly for the privilege. The shortage of supply is such that the price of organically produced food is forced up by an average of 88 per cent over that of conventionally grown fruit and vegetables — and that is after the shops have, in many cases, sold organic produce at lower profit margins to help keep their prices down.

The survey reveals that there are many potential customers waiting who say they would buy organic food if it was more readily available. Safeway estimates, on the basis of the survey, that sales of organic food, at present worth about £120 million a

year, might treble in the next three years.

At present, though, less than one half of one per cent of Britain's farming acreage is organic. Soil Association dreams that one-fifth of the farmland may be converted to follow organic farming principles by the year 2000 look wildly optimistic.

Safeway claims that organic food can no longer be regarded as only a niche market, yet it remains the only supermarket chain to make organic produce available in all its stores. There, too, availability depends on the seasons: "We sell all we can get," it was told. "We cannot get enough".

Station. Now there is a wide pedestrian way and the Walker Gallery, one of the finest art collections in the provinces.

The entrance rotunda has opened a small food concession which is simple — only salads, quiche and pastries — but it looks and tastes good. The mushroom quiche was light and full of flavour with a wholemeal crust, and the salads were delicious.

The Tate Gallery on the Albert Dock, in the pleasant waterfront development of old warehouses and ships' basins on the Mersey, was opened two years ago. It also has a small independent caterer in a minute self-service that boasts of 50 lunches daily and double that on weekends.

The pizza and samosas were a bit hard and bready, but the new potato salad and coleslaw were fine and the lemon cake and flapjacks excellent. Both gallery menus were good value at about £3.50 a head.

In an attempt to proselytize the cause, the company is sponsoring a project run by the Edinburgh School of Agriculture on 100 acres of the organic Jamesfield farm near Perth in Scotland. Field trials include a flock of Merino lambs, which are to produce organic wool, cattle to provide organic beef, and the cultivation of organic vegetables such as cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli, potatoes and lettuce.

The first food from the project went on sale the week before last, when some of the beef went into Safeway's Edinburgh store, but the long-term object is to prove to farmers that organic farming can be profitable on a large commercial scale.

The shoppers who already buy organic say their principal reasons for doing so are the belief that the produce tastes better and is good for them. They also believe they are making a positive contribution to the environment.

The actual look of organically produced vegetables is not, the survey reveals, as important as had been thought. It was originally supposed that misshapen vegetables which often appear among those grown organically might turn off some shoppers. Instead, it seems that, for some people at least, the sight of a quaintly curved carrot is reassuring.

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Rita Cruise O'Brien

RESTAURANT AND CATERING GUIDE

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• The menu for dancing throughout the night — live and recorded — and a 40 minute cabaret of variety acts at 1 a.m.

• When dinner bookings are made before 8.00p.m., for not later than 11.15 p.m. the admittance charge of £10 per person will be waived.

• Fixed menu £29.50 plus 10% service charge or a à la carte.

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• Fixed menu £29.50 plus 1

OKS



Drawing by David Salle

other unenthusiasticness, and an auto-
It's Too Late Now.
ur brought a painful
deeply felt pacifist
re painful, an
Christopher, who
in a safe distance, in
volumes of his own
on Thwaite loses
angry, as Christopher
he has chosen not to
er. Ann Thwaite's
ne is obvious from
an unsuspected black
ienly revealed when
of a pet dog. "Years
s' death, Daphne

would give instructions that a sculpture of
Christopher's head should be buried under
those same trees where she would never see
it again."

It is not enough to say that this book is
Milne's life, and so ends with his death; it is
not enough to recount baldly the fact that
after his father's memorial service, Christopher
never saw his mother again, although she lived for another 15 years.
Perhaps this story will never be told —
perhaps it never should be — but it is not
enough for a serious biographer only to
drop hints about intimate relationships of
such suppressed violence.

Could a man as sensitive and perceptive
as Milne at his best so brilliantly is, a man
instinctively loved by children and gen-

erous to a fault, have withdrawn so far from
reality that he could blind himself to such
feelings?

Well, perhaps. He had long been a master
of disguise. In 1919 the actress Lillah
McCarthy had invited Milne to tea, to
discuss a possible play for her to put on.

When they parted, she murmured how
delightful it had been to meet him. Milne
said: "Well, of course, we did meet last
Tuesday."

Only a week before, they had been two of
a party of five at dinner, sitting next to each
other, and the actress had retained no
memory at all of their encounter. So elusive
a figure as Milne was less at home in the
complexities of adult society than in the
enchanted places of childhood.

PAPERBACKS

Sinning
against
the saint

Brian Morton

THE LIFE OF ROBERT BURNS
By Catherine Carswell
Introduced by Tom Crawford
Canongate Classics, £5.95

that Carswell's depiction of the
national poet as a morbidly moody,
womanizing drunk was hardly a
new or revisionist one. Burns's first
biographer, Dr James Currie, writing
in 1800, had taken just such an
ungenerous view.

What was different about
Carswell's account, and what is
lastingly valuable about it is her
attempt to relate Burns's social and
literary manners to the society that
shaped them. Carswell was a close
friend of D.H. Lawrence (who died
within weeks of her book's appearance
with an unfinished novel

about Burns lying in his trunk), and
her vision is very much affected by
Lawrence's view of the importance
of environment.

Unenlightened as the poet may
have been in morals — though more
recently, the historian Peter Laslett
has described bastardy as the
"classic" problem of Scottish social
history — Burns was very much the
child of a wider European
enlightenment in which Scotland,
and her old ally France, played the
fullest part. The fields of Alloway
and Mount Oliphant proved as
intractable to the son as they had to
the father, William Burns — so
spelt — but Robert Burns was
infected, as all Scotland had been
since the crash of the Darien
venture, with a passion for
Improvement. It wasn't so much
the desperate infertility of the soil
that dragged him down, as the
intractability of a Presbyterian
establishment that rejected any
suggestion of human perfectibility.

It is probably advisable to read
The Life of Robert Burns as a kind
of researched novel, in which
Carswell follows Lawrence's
injunction to "fictionize the
circumstances". For the Burns
Club of 1930, though, the "circum-
stances" were a little too convincingly
bleak to swallow with their
whisky and haggis.

Nostalgic memories of childhood
days in an Irish Ruritania

Hazel Leslie

TO SCHOOL
THROUGH THE
FIELDS AND QUENCH
THE LAMP
By Alice Taylor
Brandon, £4.95 each

one for children. They helped to
run the house and farm and, unlike
most children today, had plenty of
chance to observe adults at work,
which made for a healthy respect
on both sides. They went to school,
but their real education took place
by a kind of osmosis which had
nothing to do with the classroom.
Alice shocked one of her teachers
by including a description of the
sex-life of a cow in a composition
called "Life on the Farm", and was
puzzled when it came back, ringed
with red pencil as "not suitable".

Their knowledge of people came
from close contact with neighbours,
many of whom today would be

thought distinctly odd — like old
Nell, with soot-blacked face and
stiff greasy hair, who refused to
repair her cottage roof for fear of
disturbing the birds. No psychological
theories of childcare were
available, or needed. As Ms Taylor
puts it: "We were free to be children
and to grow up at our own pace in a
quiet place close to the earth."

Success is hard to follow and her
sequel, *Quench the Lamp*, has a
slightly dutiful air about it. Adoles-
cence has arrived, the golden glow
of childhood is beginning to fade,
and *Eden* is being modernized. But
the new inventions produce some
good stories. One poor soul sat on a
flush toilet for the first time, pulled
the chain, and rushed out with his
trousers down shouting that the
whole place was going to be
flooded. Another tried to cut
expenses by installing only one
light switch so that when it was
turned on the whole house lit up.

Together the books celebrate a
way of life that few of us could
support, but many of us love to live
vicariously.

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Monuments to reckless eccentricity



Eternal triangle: the pyramid folly at Blaiken Hall, Norfolk

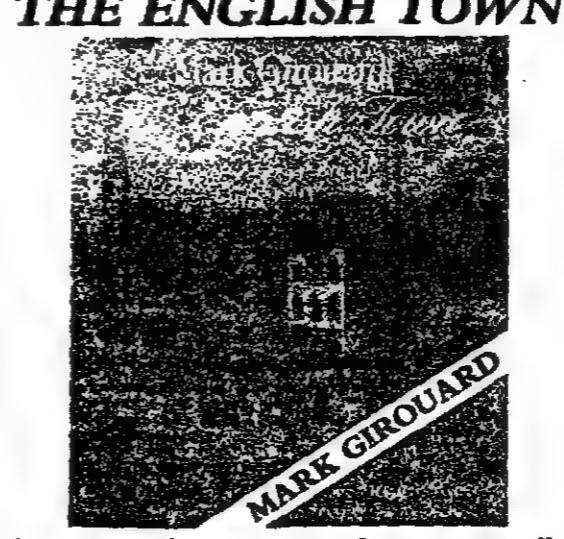
columns, obelisks, pyramids and so on — because although undeniably expensive and quite without any practical purpose, they are at once downright classical, noble and fitting; altogether far too serious to be seen as remotely silly.

What we are looking for are vast pavilions with roofs in the form of hangings pineapples or domes like giant

The authors write in a refreshingly light-hearted style, while a bedrock of research and expertise back up their assertions at no expense to readability. They make it perfectly clear what is and what is not a folly — unlike other art forms, the contrivance should be evident. Take this to mean that the leaning tower of Pisa would only trade up from being a curiosity to a folly if it had been engineered with the specific intention that it should lean. Folly builders leave nothing to chance: even the ivy rambling over a "ruined" abbey is meticulously cultivated and trained.

Although this book is a joy, it is a shame that despite the fact that the inclusion of Ireland in a future edition was promised in the original 1986 hardback, it is still being promised now. Further, the authors frequently (and quite perceptibly) resort to detailed architectural terminology, but in a well-indexed 500-page book complete with a sound bibliography, failing to include a glossary while glibly assuring the reader that such may be found at the rear of any of Pevsner's *Buildings of England* strikes me as both inexplicable and inexcusable. Such reservations apart, however, *Follies* is a winner — and it represents a wise investment.

THE ENGLISH TOWN



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"Sensitively illustrated... [Girouard's] study abounds in observations and erudition." — *The Guardian*
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Violent
land
of our
fathers

CHILDREN

Brian Alderson
THE SHINING
COMPANY
By Rosemary Sutcliff
The Bodley Head, £7.95

Y GODODDIN is not a species of baby-talk, but a tale of bloody strife, said to have been written around the end of the 7th century by the Welsh bard Aneirin. It tells how the High Chief of the Gododdin, Mynydd Mwynfawr, called a hosting of the Celtic tribes at Edinburgh. There, for the space of a year, he trained a war-band of 300 princes, and then unleashed them on the invading Saxons at the Battle of Catterick. Everything went wrong, and only one hero returned from the fray. But his exploits and those of his companions were celebrated by Aneirin in "the Great Song that others will sing for a thousand years".

This Great Song is at the heart of Rosemary Sutcliff's *Shining Company*, thus bringing Aneirin longer life than he expected. For as he gave elegiac voice to the deeds of hero after hero, so she has taken the names from his telling and has sought to imagine them back into historical reality. Speaking through the persons of Prosper, the son of a Welsh chieftain, and eventually shield-bearer to the knight who returned, she begins by establishing a sense of the closed tribal world of the time after the Romans, and then introduces unbarbaric perceptions of form and motive. Personal relationships and the countryside of the Dark Ages become vital ingredients in the renewed story, and as the episodes pile up — the ride to Edinburgh, the wading of disparate forces into a single fighting group — so the reader is made ready for the great setpiece of the battle and the long dying fall of its tragic aftermath.

Such a theme is natural to Sutcliff's art. She is moved by simple concepts of loyalty and integrity that may be as foreign to today's children's literature as they were to the no-baby-toddle Gododdin. But by admitting their possibility, while not shirking the real facts of ferocious wounding and pragmatic betrayals, she still persuades us that a bardic reading of the past is sustainable alongside an awareness of its squalor and its indifferent, but unpolluted, landscapes.

FORD once said that even cross-questioning by old ladies over dinner made him feel "like a jelly at bay". And he trembled at the very idea of biographers. Certainly, Arthur Mizener (*Scott Fitzgerald's* biographer) gave him a rough ride in *The Saddest Story* (1972), picturing a vain, prolific, mendacious, philandering "behemoth in grey tweeds", whose main achievement was editing *The English Review* (1908-9) and *Transatlantic Review* (1924-5); a perspiring nursemaid to other men's genius — including Hemingway (who, in a way of recompense, said he stank). It seems symbolic that when he died in poverty in 1939, Ford was buried in the wrong grave by a drunken French gravedigger.

But Ford's luck was changed with

Alan Judd. Judd left the Foreign Office specifically to write this new study, a labour of love and comic diplomacy, which reboots the great literary leviathan till a very considerable super-structure emerges from the waters of oblivion. The materials, like the man, are dauntingly vast: 81 books, over 400 articles, 18 love affairs, and (as Ford proudly added) 26 kitchen gardens. Ford himself took on innumerable personae, from the last velvetine Pre-Raphaelite, to cricket-playing officer-and-gentleman, to bohemian swine-keeper (with the motto, "Excellency, a few goats"). He led at least three distinct literary lives: Edwardian novelist in London, experimental Modernist in Paris, and lecturer and memoir-writer in America (with a smart line in "shabby grandeur").

Judd, as novelist himself, has considerable doubts about the biographer's powers to discover truth: he twice quotes the dictum of Janice Biala (Ford's last and perhaps most mysterious lady) that we are like blind men feeling the way with white sticks. I well remember, at the outset of his researches, Judd telling me with approval that Ford had studied the character of Henry VIII (another person, perhaps) for several years, only to conclude that "he really knew no more than that Henry VIII was a stout man with a red beard who always went through the door first". But then, enthusiastically — "the impression is unforgettable, all the same".

Judd's own impressionistic solution has been to write a large, loose, affectionate, slightly tweedy book, "in which the spirit of its subject could be at ease". It is indulgent, energetic, and immensely readable. It is very much a novelist's biography, light in documentation, rich in pipe-smoking digressions (patriotism, sex, wine, friendship, army life), and wonderfully vivid in foreground staging. Here he is "getting in" Ford at the *Deux Magots* cafe, Paris, in the 1920s.

He would sit on the edge of his chair, his mouth hanging open, talking unceasingly, draining glass after glass with no apparent effect. He was over-weight, portentous, his blond hair almost white, his teeth bad, his cheeks rosy and his moustache heavy. He would talk to anyone, would tell tall stories of the Victorians and the Edwardians, pronounce upon style, make astute comments on painting, argue about wines, become sentimental, boast about everything except what he did best, let himself be mocked by the young, encourage anyone in what they were doing, explain the secrets of the trade to any who asked, lend money, borrow it, curse all publishers, bless all the young and tell them always to trust their first reactions. *A Falsafa* figure...

In his own novels (notably *A Breed of Heroes*, 1981, and *Short of Glory*, 1984), Judd has been drawn to a particular kind of good-natured, gallant, slightly bewildered anti-hero, with both comic and tragic possibilities: the man to whom events relentlessly happen. In Ford, he has brilliantly discovered an apotheosis of the type: a sort of anguished elephant in the tropical storm of history.

Judd describes Ford's perennial

At the end of this remarkably original biography, Judd characteristically imagines actually meeting Ford in some heavenly kingdom of letters: "A large and comforting Presence, glass in hand, with a touch of old tweed, a suggestion of hitched-up Rapallo trousers, an outline of ancient dinner-jacket, a smell of uniform and creak of leather, a whiff of Gauloise, a taste of Château Margaux and a reassuring hand on our arm." I believe he will be very well received there.

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Judd makes splendid use of all: the long, difficult collaboration and friendship with Conrad between 1898 and 1924 is perhaps his most subtle biographic study — no white stick here. Indeed he conveys the sense that these memoirs are Ford's most lasting, irreplaceable achievement. His travel books, or moralized typographies — *The Cinque Ports*, *The Soul of London*, *Provence* — also remain astonishingly evocative, gaining a patina with time. Only Ford's amiable but rambling poetry, quoted at severely prejudicial length (21 pages in a 40-page section), seems to detract from his champion's explanatory charms.

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At the end of this remarkably original biography, Judd characteristically imagines actually

GALLERIES

Salzburg plans a massive museum

Andrew Gibbon Williams reports on bold proposals for the Guggenheim collection

Amid the hullabaloo of Biennale openings in Venice last month, one small exhibit tucked away in a wing of the Guggenheim Museum was easily overlooked: a scale-model and location photographs which elucidated a proposal for an extraordinary new museum planned for Salzburg.

Although not part of the Biennale proper, these designs by Austrian architect Hans Hollein could well have a far greater impact on the European arts scene than anything on display in the national pavilions. If realized, Hollein's Guggenheim Museum in Salzburg would be one of the most exciting art galleries in the world. In Europe, only the Pompidou Centre could compare.

The Austrian government first approached the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation at the end of 1989 with the suggestion that the American-based body should run its European cultural programme from a new museum paid for and built by Austria. No other privately funded American museum has such a strong commitment to Europe or is more enthusiastic about touring its phenomenal collection of 20th-century art abroad. This was the result of the donation by the eccentric heiress, Peggy Guggenheim, from her private collection and Venetian palace — the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni — to her uncle's Foundation.

After her death in 1979, the New York museum found itself not only with a fabulous additional collection of Surrealists (Peggy had been married to Max Ernst) and American Abstract Expressionists, but with a rather grand European outpost. The terms of the donation, however, stipulated that Peggy's collection should remain separately housed in her old home and open to the public. So, although the foundation had acquired a Guggenheim in Europe, it still had no proper showcase in which to display its New York collection to the European public. The Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, though probably the most picturesquely museum in the world, is small in comparison with the many other more imposing palazzi on the Grand Canal.

Nevertheless, the Foundation's director, Thomas Krens, was at first reluctant to accept the offer because the New York Guggenheim Museum is itself in a state of upheaval, about to embark upon a multi-million-dollar restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright's famous sun-like edifice on Fifth Avenue.

For the next 16 months the New York museum is closed while the work is carried out and a new tower block extension built.

The flair and originality of Hollein's conception, however, won Krens over. The Guggenheim Foundation is now collaborating with a special government commission to try to bring the Salzburg project to fruition. Provided the results of a feasibility study due this summer are satisfactory, a Guggenheim Museum on the other side of the Alps is a distinct probability.

Technical problems are immense. Hollein plans nothing less than an underground museum. Salzburg's Mönchsberg — a large rock similar to that which dominates Edinburgh — will be hollowed out and a three-level museum space of nearly 12,000 square metres constructed within.

Cleverly positioned skylights will provide natural light throughout and entrance will be gained at the main street level of Salzburg from beside the Festspielhaus at the end of the street in which Mozart's Birthplace is situated.

There will be 6,500 square metres of exhibition space, a public auditorium and all the usual museum services. Judging from the detailed model on display in Venice, the asymmetric interior spaces should guarantee an experience every bit as dramatic as Wright's classic spiral. Krens believes it would be "the most poetic architecture of the century".

Hollein comes to the Salzburg project with an international reputation for museum design. A professor at the Vienna Hochschule für Angewandte Kunst, he was responsible for the Museum Abteiberg in Mönchengladbach and for Frankfurter's acclaimed new modern art museum. His Salzburg design was chosen in a competition organized by the city's mayor.

Before the Salzburg Guggenheim becomes a reality, something more than a positive feasibility study and the approval of the Austrian chancellor is needed. An unofficial estimate puts the cost of the scheme in the region of \$200m (£118m), a sum the commission is confident about raising from the Austrian public and private sector.

A very determined alliance between New York "can-do" and Austrian financial acumen will be essential to make Salzburg synonymous with something other than Mozart and *The Sound of Music*.

OPERA

The Cunning Little Vixen

Covent Garden

IT IS hard to go wrong with Janáček's natural history of an opera, but equally it is hard to go quite as spectacularly right as this. The stage pictures, designed by William Dudley and filled with animal movement by Stuart Hops, are brilliant, luminous and magical from beginning to end.

The cast of British artists singing in English make Janáček's idiosyncratic lines their native speech. And Simon Rattle makes as glorious a Covent Garden débâcle as one could have expected, encouraging the orchestra to fill every gesture with the maximum of lustre and expression, so that the performance sounds every bit as radiantly beautiful as it looks.

The connection between visual and musical imaginess goes further, because Dudley cleverly extrapolates from the ostinato patterning of the score to create a stage abundant in rotating devices. A great drum-wheel at the back shimmeringly lit by Robert Bryan, provides the central metaphor, and doubles as a swinging platform for comic or wonderful mime.

Then there are whorls of vivid green, changing to bareness with

the season, and cycled across the proscenium at an upper level, while white whirligs below, like brushes at a car wash, stand in for trees covered in snow. Everything is immediate, sure and effective, like the music, and like the music it conveys clear-sightedness along with naivety, respect for nature with charm, and a vigorous evocation of the recesses of seasons and generations, in the natural world.

The costumes, too, hit the right note in their mixtures of animal and human elements. The hens look like pastry cooks, the blue dragonfly and the butterfly like First World War aviators marvellously suspended in flying machines after Leonardo, the badger like an old gent in a black-and-white plaid Ulster. Moreover, the singers, including numerous children in chorus groups and small solo parts, have learned delightful animal manners of movement and behaviour. There is also a marvelous high trapeze act from Deborah Pope as the Spirit of the Vixen, a thrilling response to the music's moment of richest



Production of radiant beauty: Lillian Watson and Diana Montague in *The Cunning Little Vixen*

remaining always, as she should, a little appallingly childlike in her confidence and wicked humour.

Thomas Allen as the Forester is the plain man, utterly to the point, who attains his final Epiphany despite himself, when the animals come forward to join hands with him. The moment is beautifully achieved in Bill Bryden's production. Robert Tear and Gwynne Howell both display virtuosity of voice and demeanour in their

doublings of human and animal roles, though Tear's mosquito mask obscures his voice (the same is true of the jowls imposed on Karen Shelby's lazy dog).

Diana Montague is a superb fox, singing with effortless brightness and sensuality, and Mary King makes a vocally strutting rooster. You will probably have to kill to get tickets, but this is a production that is bound to come back, often.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Predatory yuppies and whirlpools of passion

THEATRE

Gasping

Theatre Royal,

Haymarket

FOR Ben Elton, stand-up comedy is a verbal tarantula. The feeling he gives is that if for a moment he stops energetically gabbling about the iniquities of Britain, something awful will happen to him. That is also the impression left by his play. He cannot stop serving one-liners or, finally, making sharp points about capitalism, or we will slam out of the Haymarket and burn him in effigy.

Such relentlessness proved counter-productive last night. It was almost as if the funnier Elton was, the less the friendly audience laughed. A good idea had been played, broken on the wheel, pulverized, and buried.

The idea is that a tycoon and his sycophants market the last element to have eluded the profiteers. Air joins land, water and heat as something for which we must pay, thanks to machines that extract its impurities and leave the rich with sumptuous oxygen and the poor with leftover grot.



Bernard Hill in *Gasping*

At this stage there is plenty of unexceptionable fun, mostly at the expense of businessmen and their newspeak. Hugh Laurie and Simon Mattacks, playing sidekicks to Bernard Hill's Sir Chiffley Lockheart, give "non-binding ballpark reactions". A fancy restaurant is described as somewhere that "gives you portions so small you think you have a dirty plate, and it's the main course".

The jokes keep coming, but Elton does try to introduce humanity into what threatens to become a monotonous evening. There is a subplot in which a blustering Laurie is amorously bettered by the smoother Mattacks. More important, air becomes a metaphor for food, stockpiled by the greedy West. When a bland minister advised British have-nots to breathe less, the satire works. But when a reporter mourns dying babies in Ethiopia, Elton is surely pushing his analogy further than taste, sense or comedy will stand.

Bob Spiers' production fails to stretch Hill, who is heavy, arrogant and, as if protesting against such caricature, sometimes appropriately camp. Laurie, his gawky yelps undermining his self-importance, is more interesting, if implausible as a high-flyer. Perhaps the evening's most enjoyable moments are set-pieces in which he or Mattacks mime being murderously massaged in an executive gym or coping with five portable phones simultaneously.

But they are merely sketches. Elton is a gifted entertainer, no doubt of it, but he has not created a satisfying play.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

ACTORS' Touring Company opens this unfamiliar version of the legend with stark and fragmented declaimations, voiced by the five performers as they dart between semi-circular arenas and pyramidal tomb, beneath defoliated trees. What is happening? For five minutes it is hard to say, but the gist of their cries is that men and women are different.

Plunging us at once into such a whirlpool of passion is a bold decision by director Ceri Sherlock, but once the lights have come up, the initial disorder is felt to be a valuable culture-jolt. The characters wear three-piece suits and shot-silk gowns, and their hearts beat to an ancient frenzy.

The version ATC gives us is by the White Russian poet, Marina Tsvetaeva, a contemporary of Pasternak. Her interest in Phaedra's love for her step-son Hippolytus lasts only as far as his reputation of it; where Seneca and Euripides give him long speeches of dainty disgust, Tsvetaeva compresses this simply in-

to the single word, "Whore". Immediately, branches are ripped from the trees and fall jaggedly across the stage, and when the hubbub stops, Phaedra is seen to have hanged herself from the only unharmed tree. It is a thrilling climax, to which the last scene is merely a coda — though by making Theseus order a single tomb for the two corpses, she provides an innovative final union.

She goes further to redeem her heroine by blaming the Nurse for egging her on to incest. This wretched creature, played with remarkable breath-control by Dawn Keeler, also plots the ruin of Hippolytus. Simon Beresford's copper-haired athlete, writhing like his dead mother's pyramid.

Mary Jo Randle's Phaedra, haunted and gaunt, is allowed her brief moment of relief after letting out the truth: "No, it started with you", then the fear and horror streaks over her face once more.

Michael Cleary and Richard Crane translate the poetry into strong and vivid verse, suiting style and imagery to the different speakers. All in all, the production gives life to a legend that has always seemed chilly and remote.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DANCE

Secrets from the world-beaters

Simon Tait talks to the acclaimed Kirov Ballet's artistic director, Oleg Vinogradov



Oleg Vinogradov: "To dance well you must dance much."

According to Oleg Vinogradov, "the Bolshoi has more privileges because it is closer to the sun. It doesn't warm us the same way, but we have always known the Bolshoi is in the secondary category next to the Kirov."

Privilege is a vital commodity in the Soviet Union, and the genial bragging of Vinogradov, the Kirov's picareque artistic director, conceals a smirking pride. He, after all, introduced *perestroika* eight years before Gorbachev.

Dancers in Russian companies have privileges which bring tears to the eyes of Royal Ballet dancers: free apartments, free cars, to buy a country *dacha*, creche facilities. But the privileges the Bolshoi dancers have over the Kirov are of status and social authority. "No single ballet from the Bolshoi has come here, but practically all ballets from the Kirov have been taken to the Bolshoi. That is why they are secondary."

Vinogradov, himself a Kirov dancer until 1972, says that in 1977 he was content to be director of the city's May Theatre, watching the Kirov slowly disintegrate. The company, he says, had to borrow the *corps de ballet* for *Swan Lake*. Out of 220 dancers, they could not find 32 swans. Sixty per cent of the company had reached pension age, the best dancers had left, and the repertoire was disastrous.

"Nobody could persuade me that anything could be changed at the Kirov. I resisted the job for half a year." He eventually took it on with conditions: a new repertoire under his control, touring and guest residencies for his dancers, and freedom to bring dancers from abroad.

He has rebuilt the Kirov under a regime created by him but flavoured by his dancers' frequent visits to Europe. Six months a year abroad also

means his dancers could eat properly and build up their strength.

More than 90 dancers have left the Kirov since 1977, and he has had to graft one of the youngest companies in the world (in terms of dancers' age) on to the oldest (founded 50 years before the Moscow Bolshoi). For the present five-week tour of Britain (the first for 18 years was in 1988), he has brought the cream of his dancers: Zakharov, Neff andanova, Liapa and Makhalina among them. His control of them appears to be complete, almost paternal. But they have been hand-picked not only for their ability but their dedication, their taste for hard work, and their size.

Something quite terrible has happened," he said at his London press conference. "Everyone was shouting for *glasnost*, freedom, democracy. Now that we have been offered all this, no one knows what to do with it.

"The major task is not to lose anything, not to get lost,

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not to be blown away by provocation, and there are lots of provocations of different kinds."

That appears to be the message of his reworkings of two traditional Kirov ballets. Vinogradov's *Sleeping Beauty* was premiered in Rome in February. He says he would lose his head if it was seen in Russia, because it breaks the traditional bounds: "The theatre is a museum and I must preserve the objects in it." Then there is *Petrushka* — the puppet which comes to life, but develops human feelings and dies — which Vinogradov sees as a metaphor for the Soviet Union's present struggles. "He stood against the crowd and only after he was dead was he hailed, like Sakharov." Both are in the British tour.

Surprisingly frail-looking for a six-footer with legendary energy, Vinogradov says the secret of the excellence he believes his ballet has now attained is hard work. "The reason the situation in your ballet companies is so critical is that in Italy, for instance, they dance 16 to 20 ballets a year. We dance 16 to 20 ballets a month. In order to dance well you must dance much."

Vinogradov wants the Kirov's name changed to the St Petersburg Ballet, to regain some of the status from its 252-year-old history. "Ballet" started here, in Leningrad, no matter where individual ballets originated.

As his new star, Liapa (who has forsaken the Bolshoi to come to Leningrad after a year with the American Ballet Theatre) says: "Our ballet is our audience, which is 250 years old — older than America."

• The Kirov Ballet continues at the London Coliseum (071 536 3161) until July 7, and then transfers to the Birmingham Hippodrome (021 622 7486).

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RECORDS

CLIVE BARDA

Haydn storms back without the stress

When I was a music student my friends and I would pour scorn on Haydn — behind the lecturers' backs of course — for being, of all things, boring and predictable. Perhaps the rigours of academic study combined with a natural youthful rebelliousness affected our ability to make proper judgement, or perhaps we had heard (and, in turn, made) too many insensitive performances.

These days there is no risk of our successors making the same mistake. With champions of Haydn's cause whose musicianship is as finely attuned to this composer's wit, daring and humanity as that of Trevor Pinnock, the music speaks to us with a vividness unprecedented since Haydn's own times. Moreover, there are no longer any restrictions on what we prize. Not long ago any Haydn symphony that did not bear a number in the eighties or higher would be deemed immature.

Antal Dorati's recordings of all of the symphonies in the 1970s helped change that, as did the popular scholarship of H.C. Robbins Landon. Now Pinnock is enhancing their work by focusing his attention on the so-called "Sturm und Drang" symphonies, composed in the 1770s. The first two volumes of the six planned have already been welcomed in these columns; the greeting must now be extended to volumes three and four, both of which contain some miraculous music and much sparkling playing from the English Concert.

Volume four includes among its riches the Symphony No 51 in B flat, whose horn lines, stretching in the slow movement and Minuet to the very limits of that instrument's compass, are just one of its delightful and challenging eccentricities. Other idiosyncrasies include Haydn's tendency in

CLASSICAL

Stephen Pettitt

Haydn: The "Sturm und Drang" Symphonies, volume 3 (Symphonies Nos 41, 48 and 55). English Concert/Pinnock. DG Archiv 429 399-2 (CD). Haydn: The "Sturm und Drang" Symphonies, volume 4 (Symphonies Nos 43, 51 and 52). English Concert/Pinnock. DG Archiv 429 400-2 (CD). Schubert: Symphonies No 8. London Classical Players/Norrrington. EMI CDC 7 49949 2 (CD). Schubert: Klavierstücke, D915/3 Klavierstücke, D945/12 Landler, D790/4 Impromptus, D935. Andras Schiff. Decca 425 638-2 (CD). Handel: Acis and Galatea/Look down, harmonious saint. Soloists/King's Consort/King. Hyperion CDA 66361/2 (two CDs).

the first movement to collide two contrasting kinds of material, one purposeful, the other lyrical, while the innocently simple beginning of the final rondo proves to be a touch deceptive.

This work is followed by the C minor Symphony No 52, which, as Nicholas Kenyon's notes point out, can be seen as embodying the essence of *Sturm und Drang* as applied to Haydn's music. The cut and thrust of its drama, its use of a minor key and of abrupt contrasts and wide leaps, and, in the slow movement, the intensity of its emotions, all contribute to an early but effective manifestation of the Romantic spirit.

The "Mercury" Symphony, No 43, a more solid kind of piece, but one nevertheless with plenty of its own surprises, like the triple-time first movement with its ingenious false recapitulation, begins the disc. Sometimes the recording seems weighted unduly towards the strings, with the oboes often submerged by the brightness of the violins, but the readings seem spontaneous, radiating a genuine

pleasure not often experienced in studio performances.

That spontaneity is equally evident in the third volume, which contains no less breathtaking a variety of music, this time united by a common celebratory theme. The centrepiece here is the "Maria Theresa" Symphony in C, No 48. This work thrillingly combines a Classical sense of balance, an almost Mozaritan use of chromatic harmony (which sometimes lends a tantalizingly dark air to the music), and a fair degree of sheer, high exuberance. There is also another C major work, the Symphony No 41, again full of bold and original touches, and made the more majestic by the addition of trumpets and drums, while the record is completed by the Symphony No 65 in A, with its strangely turbulent Andante, its suavely dramatic first movement, and a finale impressively evocative of the hunt.

Such descriptions, however, do no justice whatsoever to the effect of this music when experienced at first hand. That is also true of Roger Norrrington's recording of Schubert's Ninth Symphony with the excellent, vividly recorded London Classical Players. Norrrington has cultivated the healthy habit of looking at familiar music from unfamiliar angles, and he makes no exception in this performance.

It is not merely a matter of using period-style instruments either. The departing point here is that this is a work which represents Schubert's first mature effort at the symphonic form. Its composer is making an important and confident debut rather than taking his leave of the world. Thus, by paying careful attention to dynamics and accents and to all the repeat marks (including those of the Scherzo second time round), Norrrington creates what is in effect an unfamiliar piece, with all

its most optimistic aspects enhanced.

There are no attempts to enoble certain moments, like the return of the big tune at the end of the first movement, by meddling with speeds, though at the same time this is not an inflexible account. Norrrington's tempi tend towards the fast side — the second movement has a particularly easy momentum about it — but because of all of those repeats the piece lasts only a shade under the hour. It becomes in Norrrington's hands an innovative, freshly lyrical but still grand epic, and whether you like it or not, at least it will make you listen.

In contrast to the grandeur of the Ninth Symphony, Andras Schiff's lovely disc of piano pieces reveals a more intimate, though not necessarily less substantial, side of Schubert's musical personality. To begin there is the eloquent C minor Allegretto, a fine example, indicative of what is to follow, of economy of means and subtlety of expression. Then come the three Klavierstücke of 1828, the first and last of which are simple, effective pieces contrasting fleet or fiery outer sections with gently lyrical, personable centres; the second of these pieces, however, is structured in an altogether more sophisticated way. It is an extended rondo in E flat, with a ritornello, borrowed from an opera, whose tune recalls Schubert's most profoundly simple songs.

Perhaps the slightest music is represented by the dozen brief Landlers played end to end. But even within their restricted timespan, these pieces are more than mere trifles. Schiff plays them in a seamless sequence, with the perfect combination of refinement and drama, as he does the four Impromptus, D935, where his naturally elegant flexibility embraces the music in a loving, extended caress.



Finely attuned: Trevor Pinnock, helping Haydn's music speak to us with unprecedented vividness

CLASSICAL UPDATE

MESSIAEN: La Transfiguration, La Nativité du Seigneur. Soloists, Westminster Symphonic Choir, National SO/Dorati (Decca 425 616-2, two CDs)

Multicoloured birdsong, mountain music, huge chorales and modal, gong-blissed narratives contemplate the mystery of the god-man in Messiaen's biggest work before his opera. Simon Preston's

recording of *La Nativité* shows where it all began.

BERIO: A-Rome, Crées of London. Swing II (Decca 620-2)

The bigger work here is a one-volume encyclopaedia of ways of projecting words and the voice. *Crées* uses the singers more as a vocal consort in fantasies on street cries.

SCHOENBERG: Pierrot lunaire, Serenade. Thomas, London Sinfonietta/Atherton (Decca 425 626-2)

A classic performance of *Pierrot*, with Mary Thomas going strongly for character: frail, macabre, savage. The apt companion piece is Schoenberg's later nocturne.

LIGETI: Melodien, Double Concerto, Chamber Concerto, Ten Pieces. Soloists, London Sinfonietta/Atherton (Decca 425 623-2)

Four beautiful, fascinating works of 1968-72, when Ligeti was finding melodic routes between his extremes of stillness and crazed motion.

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 33 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted



Green: Joni Mitchell

JONI MITCHELL

ong before Tracy Chapman, Suzanne Vega, Joan Armatrading, Rickie Lee Jones and many others arrived to profit from her example, Joni Mitchell brought a voice of lyrical purity, a penchant for savage self-examination and a bohemian folk-troubadour's touch to bear on the post-hippie muse of the early Seventies. "Big Yellow Taxi" from *Ladies Of The Canyon* (1970) may or may not have been the first certifiably green pop song, but it undoubtedly established her presence on the international stage. The follow-up, *Blue* (1971), however, is in a different class, with the brilliant lustre of songs like "California", "The Flight Tonight" and "Carey", offering a stark yet loving appraisal of the heartache and neuroses lurking just below the surface of the freewheeling Californian lifestyle. Mitchell subsequently transposed her folk textures to a jazz environment, most memorably *Decade's Reckless Daughter* (1977), a bold collaboration with Wayne Shorter and the late Jaco Pastorius of Weather Report.

NEXT WEEK: Van Morrison, The Neville Brothers

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Pictures from an exhibition

JAZZ

Clive Davis

Various Artists: Jazz on a Summer's Day (Castle Hendring Video HEN2-239), 77 minutes

Various Artists: Jazz At Ronnie's (Castle Hendring Video HEN2-240), 80 minutes

Michel Petrucciani: Live At The Village Vanguard (Parkfield Publishing MKJ-0010), 52 minutes

Lionel Hampton: Lionel Hampton's One Night Stand (Parkfield Publishing MKJ-0018), 54 minutes

Let the buyer beware. From being an exotic rarity, jazz videos are now increasingly common. Yet quality still lags far behind quantity. Too many cassettes, marketed on the basis of a star name, turn out to be random compilations of mediocre talents. Worse still, the standard of direction usually fails between the prosaic and the incompetent. These are good reasons for welcoming the video issue of *Jazz On A Summer's Day*, Bert Stern's sumptuous record of the 1958 Newport Jazz Festival.

There has been much grumbling about the film. Serious jazz lovers tend to be dismayed by the cutaways of crowd reactions, as well as the scenes of the America's Cup trials off Rhode Island. Thelonious Monk has barely begun his solo on "Blue Monk" before the camera wanders away to admire the yachts and the surf. Some of the coy footage of vacation life ashore undoubtedly brings back bad memories of "Look At Life". The sound on my cassette was also well below cinema standard.

Yet the film is still a bewitching portrait of an age, as evocative in its way as *Woodstock* was to be a decade later. Stern is helped, of course, by a superb roster of artists, from Anita O'Day (in her wonderful bobble dress) to Chuck Berry, Mahalia Jackson to Chico Hamilton and Louis Armstrong. In its cool sophistication, Jimmy Giuffre's opening performance on "The Train And The River" encapsulates the mood. Besides, the audience footage is by no means as intrusive as it might have been. Whether or not it was intentional, the images can now be read as a wry view of the hip Fifties jazz lover. This was the era of Eisenhower innocence, when the relationships between the performers — most of them black — and their white patrons must have seemed fixed forever. Time, politics and Free Jazz would soon bring changes.

Jazz At Ronnie's is a generally lively compilation of recent performances at the club.

The presentation is uneven, from the home-movie shots of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers playing "Dr Jekyll" to the pop video gloss on Curtis Mayfield's "Move On Up". Anita O'Day's lined face is subjected to some cruel lighting, but her felicitous delivery of "I Can't Get Started" and "It Don't Mean a Thing" scarcely need the help of pictures in any case. Half-lost in dry ice, Chico Freeman's fusion band looks as if it is playing on a film set rather than the club. Nina Simone receives adequate treatment, though after her last erratic residency she might have been more accurately represented by a static shot of an empty chair. Chet Baker (playing "Love For Sale"), Memphis Slim and Taj Mahal were all worth capturing. Roy Ayers's jazz-funk is probably for party-goers only.

The camerawork on Michel Petrucciani's trio date in Greenwich Village is, at best, efficient.

No attempt is made to enliven a performance which acts as the visual counterpart to the pianist's 1984 live album with bassist Palle Danielsson and drummer Elton Zigmund.

Lionel Hampton's followers should avoid his *One Night Stand*, a farce of middle-of-the-road entertainment shot in 1971, presumably for American prime-time TV. Mel Torme does his honourable best to compare an all-star show which reduces jazz to the level of *A Knockout*. Zoot Sims, Cat Anderson and Gene Krupa are among the extras shunted into view at intervals.

ROCK UPDATE

Burning Tree: Burning Tree (Epic 466633 1) Young Californian trio whose music is to Jimi Hendrix and Cream what the Cut's is to Led Zeppelin and AC/DC. A capable if frequently derivative interpretation of familiar riffs and guitar solos.

Soul II Soul: Vol II — 1990 A New Decade (10 DIX 90)

Second instalment of languid, irresistable grooves courtesy of the charismatic Jazzy B and an impressive cast of guests including Marcia Lewis ("Get a Life"), Kym Mazzella ("Missing You") and Courtney Pine ("Courtesy Blows").

Robert Plant: Manic Nirvana (Es Paranza 7567-91336-2)

His fifth solo album is streets ahead of anything that a revamped Led Zeppelin could now hope to achieve, a testament to Plant's glemme to modern developments.

Besides, the audience footage is by no means as intrusive as it might have been. Whether or not it was intentional, the images can now be read as a wry view of the hip Fifties jazz lover. This was the era of Eisenhower innocence, when the relationships between the performers — most of them black — and their white patrons must have seemed fixed forever. Time, politics and Free Jazz would soon bring changes.

Jazz At Ronnie's is a generally lively compilation of recent performances at the club.

The presentation is uneven, from the home-movie shots of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers playing "Dr Jekyll" to the pop video gloss on Curtis Mayfield's "Move On Up". Anita O'Day's lined face is subjected to some cruel lighting, but her felicitous delivery of "I Can't Get Started" and "It Don't Mean a Thing" scarcely need the help of pictures in any case. Half-lost in dry ice, Chico Freeman's fusion band looks as if it is playing on a film set rather than the club. Nina Simone receives adequate treatment, though after her last erratic residency she might have been more accurately represented by a static shot of an empty chair. Chet Baker (playing "Love For Sale"), Memphis Slim and Taj Mahal were all worth capturing. Roy Ayers's jazz-funk is probably for party-goers only.

The camerawork on Michel Petrucciani's trio date in Greenwich Village is, at best, efficient.

No attempt is made to enliven a performance which acts as the visual counterpart to the pianist's 1984 live album with bassist Palle Danielsson and drummer Elton Zigmund.

Lionel Hampton's followers should avoid his *One Night Stand*, a farce of middle-of-the-road entertainment shot in 1971, presumably for American prime-time TV. Mel Torme does his honourable best to compare an all-star show which reduces jazz to the level of *A Knockout*. Zoot Sims, Cat Anderson and Gene Krupa are among the extras shunted into view at intervals.

JAZZ UPDATE

James Morrison: Snappy Doo (WEA 9031-7121)

The Australian multi-instrumentalist uses over-dubbing to create an engrossing replica of a big band, brimming with relaxed quartet tracks with Ray Brown, Herb Ellis and Jeff Hamilton.

Jack Teagarden: That's A Serious Thing (RCA/Bluebird ND-9010)

The greatest trombonist of them all is well served by a splendid compilation spanning three decades from 1922. The Texan imposes his personality on all the pieces, even on the stiff-necked "symphonic jazz" of the Paul Whiteman Orchestra.

Bill Aldrin: Goodtime Jazz Band: Swing That Music (Big Bear CD31)

Due to tour Britain next month, the Wild Bill Davison trombonist leads a well-arranged recital of familiar standards, recorded at the last Birmingham Jazz Festival.

ROCK UPDATE

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GARDENING

Francesca Greenoak takes a caring look at the colourful lupin family, old-fashioned favourites that deserve a revival

The blooms that blazon a trail into summer

It is strange how plants float in and out of fashion: when lupins were the darlings of the 1940s and 1950s, no garden was complete without a bank of gaily coloured hybrids. These were the result of careful hybridizing by James Kelway at the end of the last century, and later by George Russell, after whom the Russell lupins are named. Lupins are still found in garden centres and seed catalogues, but they are no longer the front-runners.

Lupins are not to be despised: they blazon the transition from early to full summer, in a surprisingly complete range of colour. The early foliage, with its spoke-like leaflets, is particularly beautiful early in the season, more so with dew or raindrops on it. There are a number of bi-coloured varieties where the petal colours contrast, but I prefer the plain colours.

Looking closely at a lupin, one sees that even in the all red or all cream varieties, the upper part of the petals is slightly different in shade from the lower. It is this slight difference which gives the lupin its shimmering effect, particularly in the pale colours.

Mass plantings have given way to more subtle groupings with other plants. Creamy yellow or white lupin spikes, rising to a height of about 4ft from a splendid plant, look well planted singly or in small groups, combined in a plant setting of greens, golds and whites: for example, white, creamy and rusty foxgloves, lady's mantle, variegated dogwood, pulmonaria and the creamy bottlebrush flowers of *Aruncus* or meadowweet.

Soft pink lupins can be used

(*Geranium macrorhizum* for example), sidalcea, pink astilbe and bluish spirea. Blue and purple lupins are numerous, and make a soft grouping with foliage plants such as white-blotted lungwort, blue irises, hostas, and blue-flowered clematis.

Lupins will do well in sun or dappled shade (scents are better in sun, flowers last longer in shade). It is best to choose a place where the soil is not too rich, or growth will be too lush and sappy. If this happens they will need staking, which is not a great problem, but they will also attract aphid attack, and possibly virus disease transmitted by these insects. Ideally, lupins like a lighter soil of a sandy or acid composition. They bloom quite nicely on heavy clays but are said not to live so long on heavy soil, and they are not lime tolerant.

The aphid which specifically attacks lupins is an American newcomer which came first to mainland Europe about nine years ago and then became a serious nuisance in Britain. It is a large, greyish, waxy insect, probably a match for ladybirds, which do not appear to be predatory in this species. Look out for them when the flower spikes begin to form, tucked up on the flowerbuds, or underneath the leaves. They tend to fall off the plant and clamber back on when your back is turned, so it is best to pick them off or spray thoroughly with insecticide.

Brian Woodfield, a specialist lupin grower and hybridizer, says that synthetic chemical sprays used thoroughly will work. Possibly organic, soft-soap based sprays are also effective, particularly if used early and repeated within a fortnight,



but I cannot say for certain because I have so far escaped the aphid. Liquid derris is stronger and should work, but must be used with care, particularly near ponds or if there are bees in the vicinity.

Hundreds of lupin varieties were developed over the past 50 years, but only a few are now available. One person who has a special interest in them is Mrs Pat Edwards, who took on the conservation of

the National Collection of Russell Lupins in her garden at Albrighton, Shropshire, where the family nursery and garden centre business is on the land where Russell carried out his hybridizing work well into his old age. Building up the collection has proved more difficult than anyone anticipated, but out of 150 or more varieties which Mrs Edwards has ordered from all over Britain, only 12 seem to

be true to form. Rather than give up, she has returned to some old Russell seed which she had, and is growing and selecting in much the same way as he did, helped by local people who still remember the old man and his plants. If any readers have a Russell lupin which they believe to be an early named Russell variety, Mrs Edwards would very much like to hear from you (contact her at

WEEKEND.TIPS

- Keep greenhouses and conservatories well ventilated.
- Feed tomato fertilizer once the first truss has set.
- Take cuttings from pinks, using non-flowering shoots from below a leaf node (bulge in stem).
- Cut grass in which there are naturalized bulbs (check that leaves are yellowed and seeds are ripe).
- Net soft fruit and wall cherries if birds are a problem.
- Pinch out side the shoots of cucumbers on single cordon plants, grown up supports, and take out the central shoots when they reach the top.

GARDENS TO VISIT

DORSET: Cranborne Manor Gardens, Cranborne (10m N of Wimborne on B3078). Beautiful, historic gardens laid out originally by John Tradescant and enlarged this century; herb garden, knot and white gardens, Elizabethan flowers, water and wild gardens. Teas. Plant sales. Adult £1. Today 9am-5pm.

HAMPSHIRE: The Manor House (6m SE Basingstoke in Upton Grey village, on hill immediately above the church). Beautifully restored Jekyll garden of domestic proportions; borders, nursery, tennis lawn, rose garden, wild garden with pond. Adult £1, child 50p. Tomorrow 2-6pm.

OXFORDSHIRE: Hill Court, Tackley (9m N of Oxford, turn off A423 at Studley's Castle). Walled 2-acre garden influenced by Russell Page: herbaceous borders, shrubberies, replanted orangery, pink-blue terraces. Fine views. Teas. Plant sales. Adult 80p, child free. Today and tomorrow 2-6pm.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: Skretton Cottage, Scratton (8m SW Newark). From A46 Fosse Rd, turn E to Car Colston, left at green and on for 1m). All-year-round landscaped: garden trees, shrubs, herbaceous in 1.75 acres. Teas. Adult 75p, child 20p. Tomorrow 2-6pm.

HOMES & GARDENS

CLARE ROBERTS

Swallow Hayes, Rector Road, Albrighton, Shropshire.

Her advice to would-be lupin gardeners is to go to nurseries and garden centres now and to select the plants you like, looking for good healthy foliage and a stubby flower spike which breaks into bloom down on the stem. Woodfield Nursery, 71 Townsend Road, Tiddington, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, is one of the few specializing in lupins nowadays. One of its most elegant early varieties is Deborah Woodfield, which has tall creamy blooms. Troop the Colour is a strong and attractive red with pink undertones. You can expect to pay about £2.50 for a named Woodfield variety, which is guaranteed true to type (collection only). If you cut off the spike just where the flowers begin before they start to get seed, there will be a second bloom.

Lupins self-seed prolifically if the pods are allowed to ripen, and although they do not breed true there may be some good plants among the progeny. Named varieties will last about six years, according to Mr Woodfield, and can be easily propagated early in the year, when cuttings taken from the growing crown will take in a jar of sand and water.

There are smaller Russell-type lupins, which may reach about 3ft, and versions of *Lupinus harwegii*, which are dwarf annuals reaching only about 18 inches. One group called Pixie Delight comes in with some white mixed in which each individual flower in the rather squat spike. These are annual plants and the soft foliage, stems and nitrogen-fixing roots make a green manure or compost fuel, best dug into the ground after flowering (but before they form seeds).

There are also some smaller perennial varieties. The dwarf Russell mixed hybrids grow to about 2ft with the Gallery varieties, roughly intermediate at about 20 inches. At the other end of the scale are the tree lupins. The common form of the tree lupin is creamy yellow but there are also blue or mauve flowered versions. These can grow up to 10ft, but in general about half that size. It makes a large, attractive but slightly unruly bush. All the perennials are comparatively short-lived, about three to five years, but they can be easily propagated.

WALK

Wimpole Park, Cambridgeshire, 6 miles

WIMPOLE HALL, within its landscaped parkland, is an oasis in rich arable country, the rolling chalkland under fodder beans, rape, barley and wheat in huge fields from which most of the hedges have been removed. Wimpole Hall is owned by the National Trust and is open from 1-5pm (closed Monday and Friday) from March 31 to November 4, so time the walk to arrive during these hours and in time for tea.

Start at Arrington church, just off the A14, whose aisles were removed when the village population dwindled. Back at the main road turn right, then left on to a footpath across arable ground, signposted New Wimpole. This path crosses the grand avenue running for 2½ miles south from Wimpole Hall, now a shadow due to Dutch elm disease, and being replanted with lime saplings. Cross this to a farm, then follow the farm track to the Cambridge Road, A603. Turn left and cross the estate village of New Wimpole and then right along the road to Orwell. Turn left at the church, which has a fine chancel of 1398, and cross the A603 to footpaths heading north-west across country, passing to the right of Thorberry Hill Farm, which has an old threshing mill built in 1804. The path passes the

Wimpole estate woodland and turns left on to the metalled track to Park Farm. This has a big thatched barn designed by Sir John Soane in the 1790s and a farmhouse of 1860. Turn left, and then right through a kissing gate into the parkland of Wimpole. Cross the medieval ridge-and-furrow corrugations to the 1851 red brick and stone stable block.

Beyond this visit the hall itself. The south front is mostly as remodelled by Henry Flitcroft in the 1740s for Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, but the architectural history is more complicated. Near the house is the church, mostly rebuilt by Flitcroft in 1749. Access to the Home Farm with its farm machinery collection and rare breeds is via the house.

After the tour, walk west through the park and out through the west gates back into Arrington.

Martin Andrew

WEATHER

IN spite of this week's rain, needed in in southern England in the summer in at least seven out of 10 years.

These figures disguise a wide range of variations depending on soil type and weather conditions. But for anyone whose lawn goes brown and threadbare at the least hint of drought, the answer may lie in the soil. Compacted ground, full of rubble and completely lacking organic material, will hold little water, whereas good quality, friable soil, which helps the formation of a good deep root system, can produce a lawn able to survive even the worst drought.

As for vegetables or prized shallow-rooted shrubs, any watering must be designed to replenish the soil moisture to a good depth. This means about four gallons a square yard every week or so during a hot dry spell. The best time for watering vegetables in a severe drought is approximately two weeks before maturity.

W. J. Burroughs

Continued on next page

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SHOPPING



Fashion, mystery, allure, even eye-protection... Nicole Swengley reports on what people are wearing, and paying, to achieve a darker shade of bright



"Hi, there" round, black and gold sun-glasses by Christian Lacroix, £162, from Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1



Black butterfly specs, £81, by Cutler & Gross, 16 Knightsbridge Green, London SW1. Photographs by JOHN SWANNELL

Spectacular ways to be someone else

Fashion sun-glasses have the potential for endless role-playing. Lurking behind a pair of shades can change the wearer into a Jackie Kennedy, Jack Nicholson, Bob Geldof, Bruce Springsteen, Madonna or Clint Eastwood. At least, that's the idea. But buying sun-glasses is no longer simply a question of forking out a fiver. Designer shades cost well over £50, and it is not uncommon to find price tags of £150 or lots more.

Harrods, for example, sells gold-plated Cartier and Giorgio Armani sun-glasses at about £3,000. And even these titles in the field of vision can be further gilded – at a price.

Nigel Carrier, owner of the London style shop Brats, says: "Cheap sun-glasses are difficult to sell. Five years ago, people were spending £10 to £15 on a pair, and Ray-Bans were considered expensive at £30. Now people want prestige makes. They have become used to quality lenses and will pay for these and for hand-made frames."

Fashion sun-glasses were born in 1936 when Ray-Ban put a sun-glass lens into its now-classic, and much-imitated, Aviator frame for the United States Army Air Corps, to protect pilots from the effects of ultraviolet and infrared rays and glare.

In 1951, it introduced a new lens and the following year put it into a new frame. Suddenly, the famous Fifties-style Wayfarer was all the rage. Given its devoted following, it is not surprising that the Wayfarer has spawned a flood of cheap imitations. Genuine frames bear the imprint "B&L Ray-Ban", and a model number. Both lenses are engraved with the B&L (Bausch & Lomb) insignia.

Gail Steele, retail director of opticians David Clulow, says: "At the end of last year, I would have said that Wayfarers had had their day. But this year we have sold more than ever."

The Wayfarer phenomenon may be due to the brand having become collectably cult, in the same way as Zippo lighters and Mont Blanc pens.

But Ray-Ban is aware of fashion's fickle finger and has diversified the range by introducing several new shapes. The move may also be a bid to woo fashion-conscious shoppers away from designer names such as Jasper Conran, Christian Lacroix, John-Paul Gaultier, Giorgio Armani, Christian Dior, Paloma Picasso and Patrick Kelly – all of whose sun-glasses are selling fast, despite the eye-opening price tags, at outlets including Harrods in Knightsbridge, London SW1, and Fenwick, 25 New Bond Street, London W1.

Sun-glasses have always been a handy for a quick-change act. Invaluable for covering up "morning-after" bags under the eyes, they are also a lazy alternative to eye make-up – and sometimes an air of mystique is adopted by wearers who have the psychological advantage of avoiding eye contact while still being able to see.

Stefan Zagura, marketing executive at Dolland &

Aitchison, the opticians, says: "People are buying a look, and they are prepared to buy more than one pair to suit different moods. The Jackie Kennedy look is very popular; so is the round-eye John Lennon look. Persol sun-glasses are following hard on the heels of Ray-Ban, helped perhaps by guitarist Eric Clapton wearing them on his *Journeymen* album cover."

Sun-glass wearers are often criticized as poseurs, particularly when sporting shades indoors. But Mr Zagura says: "A few years ago, if you wore sun-glasses after 6pm or in winter, people assumed that you were either famous or mad. That has changed. Sun-glasses have become a fashion accessory."

But is it sensible to wear sun-glasses unnecessarily? Susan Conrad, press officer at the Institute of Eye Care, says: "Our eyes are able to cope with average sunlight conditions. If you shade your eyes constantly from ordinary light they may become allergic to light and start to water excessively – a condition called photophobia. My advice is not to wear sun-glasses when you do not need to."

What are the truly hip buying this summer? Many are lured by the designer names; for example, Christian Lacroix's black-and-gold framed specs, £162, or Giorgio Armani's round, half-tortoiseshell model, £127, from Harrods. Others are opting for pop-up double lenses, such as those by Vision, £12.50, at Fenwick, or a sun-grille version, £13.75, from Crackers.

Adam Simmonds, of trendy Soho opticians Eye-Tech, says his clients hunt out the more exclusive designs. "They're choosing antique-style, hand-finished frames based on Thirties designs by Oliver Peoples. "LA Eyeworks is also at the forefront because its fashion frames are different from the mainstream. Alain Mikli, the French avant-garde spectacle designer, is not quite so wearable, as the frames are more extreme, but anyone looking for a simple classic design with good quality frames and lenses is going for Persol."

Eye-Tech, of 44 Brewer Street, London W1 (071-734 1415), sells Matsuda's first sun-glass range in the UK. The small, antique-looking metal frames start at about £150.

Tony Gross, of Cutler & Gross, 16 Knightsbridge Green, London SW1 (071-581 2250), says: "My clients are going for a more glamorous look, like the big butterfly frames."

Mr Steele adds: "Romeo Gigli's new range of Thirties and Forties-style sun-glasses are small and subtle. They come in understated colours and there is nothing flashy about them. I'm sure these will sell well this summer, along with John-Paul Gaultier's sun-glasses, which really are different because he has made a feature of all the nuts and bolts on the frames."

Confused? Perhaps the answer may be to commission your own bespoke pair. Anglo American Eyewear will undertake any suitable design. Prices start at about £95. For details, contact Anglo American Eyewear, South Hill Park, Hampshire, London NW3 2SB (071-435 3811).

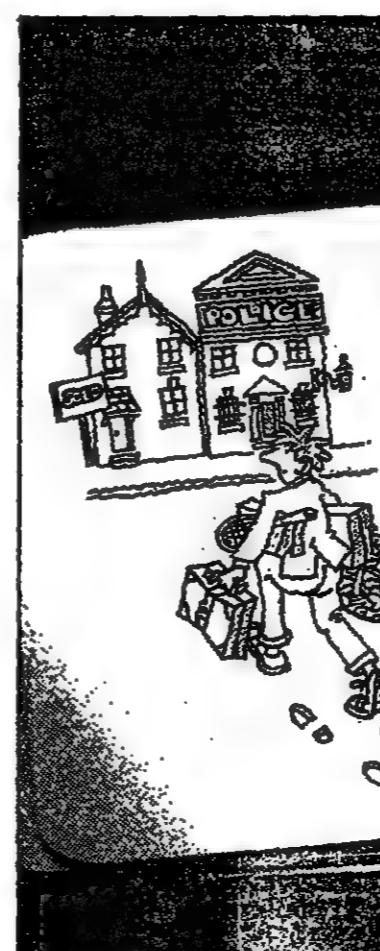


Russian-style sun-glasses with a pop-up grille, £13.75, from Crackers, 62 Church Road, Barnes, London SW13

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SATURDAY JUNE 9 1990

Swindon's troubles deepen

By LOUISE TAYLOR

OSVALDO Ardiles, manager of Swindon Town, was flying back to England from Argentina last night as the troubled affairs of the club threatened to become even more turbulent.

The Inland Revenue is understood to be stepping up its interest in alleged irregularities at the club, which was demoted from the first to the third division after a Football League management committee inquiry on Thursday. And the League may be far from finished with its own investigations into illegal payments made to players and officials and abuses of the transfer system intended to defraud fellow clubs between 1985 and 1989.

Not only did Swindon plead guilty to 36 such charges before the League commission but they also admitted a further 20 offences. Such was the magnitude of Swindon's misdemeanours that the League is understood to have seriously contemplated expelling them.

The charges relate to a period between 1985 and December 1989 — during which time the club rose from the fourth to the second division.

That period includes the arrival of Ardiles, the former Tottenham Hotspur and Argentina player, who was installed as manager last August, and it is known that four of the players who proved prominent in Swindon's promotion to the first division for the first time benefited from payments in breach of League regulations. Although Gary Herbert, the present chairman, did not succeed Brian Hillier until April of this year, he was previously a vice-chairman and has been a director of the club since 1983. Herbert and the entire board of directors, plus Ardiles and nine players presently with Swindon and three now at other clubs could be the subject of another League commission which will determine whether further will be imposed on individuals.

Its convening could be delayed by the need to avoid prejudicing the impending legal proceedings involving charges laid against Hillier, Macari, and Vincent Farren, the former club accountant. The trio are on conditional bail following their arrests in May for offences involving failure to declare tax and



Focus of attention: Gary Herbert (second left), the chairman of Swindon Town, at the County Ground yesterday, announces the club's intention to appeal against their demotion from the first to the third division with (from left) Colin Howard, a Swindon director, Dericent Menant, the mayor of Swindon, Simon Coombs, the local MP, and Chris Scott, the chairman of the supporters club in attendance.

national insurance liabilities. They are due to appear before Swindon magistrates on Tuesday but it could be months until the case reaches Crown Court.

The League has confirmed that it will be re-convening the transfer tribunals which fixed the transfer fees of Tim Parkin, sold to Swindon by Bristol Rovers, Jon Gittens, who arrived from Southampton, Colin Calderwood, who came from Mansfield Town, Steve Foley, bought from Sheffield United, Ross McLaren, signed from Derby County, and Martin Ling, who moved from Exeter City.

The six selling clubs have been defrauded, they are entitled to compensation, and the situations will be reassessed," Andy Williamson, the League's assistant secretary, said yesterday.

It is understood that Swindon officials raised the transfer tribunals as to the amount it could afford to pay the

players involved, thereby prompting the tribunal to lower the transfer fees, whereupon Swindon paid the players extra cash, neglecting to declare such sums for tax and national insurance purposes.

The League management committee will announce which clubs will take up the first and second division places left vacant by Swindon's demotion on Monday at the latest, but it is understood that Sheffield Wednesday and Bournemouth, relegated from the first and second divisions at the end of the season stand to benefit, as opposed to Sunderland and Tranmere Rovers, the beaten second and third division play-off finalists. In 1968, when Peterborough United were demoted to the fourth division for transfer irregularities, Mansfield, who would otherwise have been relegated, were allowed to retain their third division place.

Nevertheless Swindon yesterday informed the League that they intend to appeal to the Football Association.

Captain Stevens

JAN Stevens, the lock forward, will lead London Irish rugby union club next season, in succession to TW Fitzgerald, who is now working in the United States. Air Commodore Paddy Forsythe, formerly the club chairman, has been elected

Hornets transfer

ROCHDALE Hornets rugby league club has agreed to pay Halifax around £50,000 for Colin Whifield, aged 29, the former Salford and Wigan utility back. Whifield, a former Great Britain Under-24 international, has accepted a one-year contract with Rochdale.

Harwood at York

THE Australian golfer, Mike Harwood, who won the Volvo PGA golf championship at Wentworth last month, will play in the £250,000 Murphy's Cup at Fulford, York from August 9 to 12.

REGULATIONS BROKEN

Extract from Regulation 26.

Clubs shall not make or offer to make any payment or whatsoever in money or kind in and to a Player or other families or any other person as an inducement to sign other than those provided for in these Regulations. It shall be a condition of all payments to Players that all such amounts named in the contract of service shall be strictly adhered to by all Clubs and Players.

Extract from Regulation 27.

Full list of all payments to or benefit, paid in cash or in kind on behalf of Players must be included in the contract of service.

It shall be a condition of all payments to Players that all such amounts named in the contract of service shall be strictly adhered to by all Clubs and Players.

Regulation 28.

If in the opinion of the Management Committee a contract of service has been drawn up or amended with the purpose or effect of securing or ensuring payment of full compensation in accordance with the intent of the provisions of this Regulation, the Management Committee shall require the Club which is responsible for so drawing up or amending the contract to pay to the Management Committee the amount of compensation which the Management Committee considers in its absolute discretion ought to be paid.

(2) If in the opinion of the

Management Committee any Club unlawfully draws or amends the regulations of any Player or other families or any other person as an inducement to sign other than those provided for in these Regulations.

Extract from Regulation 29.

No club shall make any contractual arrangement pursuant to which a Director shall be remunerated (as provided in Football Association Rules), or pursuant to which the terms of any such contract or arrangement, as proposed, or proposed hereunder shall be altered unilaterally until full details thereof have been submitted to the Management Committee and received its written approval. The appointment of a Director under such an arrangement shall be an arrangement failing within this regulation.

Regulation 30.

No club shall make any contractual arrangement pursuant to which a Director shall be remunerated (as provided in Football Association Rules), or pursuant to which the terms of any such contract or arrangement, as proposed, or proposed hereunder shall be altered unilaterally until full details thereof have been submitted to the Management Committee and received its written approval. The appointment of a Director under such an arrangement shall be an arrangement failing within this regulation.

DeFreitas sends down unkindest cutter for all

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND had to wait until past 5 o'clock yesterday before the weather relented long enough for them to take one further New Zealand wicket. It was, however, the sort of day when it might have been kinder to everyone, not least the crowd, to abandon hope.

When even one ball had been bowled, it meant that the long suffering customers would receive no refunds. And, in truth, there was never likely to be much more than that, such as the gloom hanging over Nottingham.

DeFreitas, scantly rewarded for his fine bowling on Thursday, was one who did not complain. His first ball accounted for Priest, edging a leg cutter to Russell. His second over was less auspicious — two short balls which brought seven runs for Bracewell, then a warning from umpire Bird for encroaching on the pitch.

Soon, Bird was fretting and the batsmen made justifiable gestures about the light and, after five overs, the inevitable happened, greeted with noisy disfavour by what remained of the crowd.

The last time England's Test team was seriously grounded by rain examined every stiff upper lip as sordid before. It was in Trinidad, 11 weeks ago, and the cost of it was a series in the Caribbean. By comparison, yesterday's depressing vigil was greeted with silent resignation by a few thousand patrons for whom a washed-out cricket match was like a long lost friend.

Those who watched proceedings closely would have been struck by the appearance of the England players in new practice gear, sporting the name of the Test sponsors. This is rather more than a spot of propaganda; it may indeed be a signpost to the future as, later this month, England will support a proposal, due before the annual meeting of the International Cricket Council, to allow advertising on shirts and sweaters in international matches.

Such overt commercialism on clothing has always been taboo in Test cricket, but I understand that West Indies, New Zealand and Pakistan will join with England in pressing for new legislation.

The likelihood is that direct names, or logos, will be permitted on the collars and breast-pocket of shirts, and possibly on sweaters. England's authorities expect that such an opportunity could bring in £1 million a year.

TRENT BRIDGE SCOREBOARD

New Zealand won toss

NEW ZEALAND

First Innings

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th | 7th | 8th | 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| T J Franklin b Malcolm | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bowled off pads | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J G Priest c Bell b Small | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Placed in stumps | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A H Jones c Stewart b Malcolm | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bowled out to cover | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M D Crows c DeFreitas b Small | 59 | 1 | 5 | 112 | | | | | | | | |
| Wicket b Small | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M J Greatbatch b Hemmings | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Placed outside leg | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M W Priest c Russell b DeFreitas | 20 | | 1 | 75 | | | | | | | | |
| Bowled on stumps | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M C Sheadan not out | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J G Bradstock not out | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Extras (b, 1, lb, 6, w 1) | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total (8 wkt) | | | | | | | | | | | | 132 |

11 D S Smith, R J Hadlee and D K Morrison to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-27, 3-110, 4-121, 5-170, 6-174.

BOWLING: Small 22-0-41-1 (5-6-5-2); 6-1-11-1; 7-0-19-0; 8-1-5-0; Malcolm 19-7-42-2 (6-3-5-2); 11-3-7-2; 2-1-10-0; Hemmings 18-6-47-1 (4-3-4-0); 15-3-43-1; DeFreitas 17-3-48-2 (12-3-25-0; 3-1-3-1; 2-0-13-1).

Umpires: H D Bird and J H Hassett.

ENGLAND: M A Gooch, M A Atherton, A J Stewart, A J Lamb, R A Smith, N H Fairbrother, T R G Russell, P A J DeFreitas, M J Hemmings, G D Small, G E Malcolm.

TELEVISION COVERAGE: Today: BBC1: 10.55pm-8pm; Grandstand Live play from third day (with football, tennis and racing); BBC2: 4.40-6.30pm: Live play, 8-10pm: Highlights. Tomorrow: BBC1 10am-midday: Highlights of the third day.

WEATHER: Bright start but becoming cloudy and showery. Temperatures 15-16°C. Wind light, northerly.

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wheel ADULT
cycles would be
obtainable only through the European makers
distributors in clear, black or white
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genuine "king of the road" from one of Europe's leading cycle
makers. The 1990 model is the standard Magenta series of OVER 100,000
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Now - forget those £200... £300... and even higher mountain
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Seles in search of Berlin repeat

HAVING staved off the challenge from below in the semi-final of the French Open, Monica Seles has now raised her sights for the final against Steffi Graf this afternoon (Andrew Longmore writes).

To find inspiration, the young Yugoslav will only have to cast her mind back three weeks, when she ended a 66-match unbeaten run by Graf in the final of the Berlin Open, or perhaps turn to the much-thumbed record books of the French Open. If she wins, Seles, at the age of 16½, will become the youngest winner of the French Open, breaking the record set last year by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, by 11 months. Quite apart from that, she will take home the first prize of \$337,550 (£200,000).

But while Graf has been progressing through the top half of the draw, troubled more by an allergy than any opponent, Seles has been having to wade laboriously through the bottom half.

To her credit, she has been equal to the struggle, surviving tough three-setters against Helen Kelesi and Manuela Malcova before emerging for her most dramatic victory over the world champion and No. 1 seed today. But just what the last month, which has included victories over Martina Navratilova and Graf in consecutive finals, has taken out of her slender frame, only this afternoon will tell.

"I wasn't really mentally prepared to beat Martina and Steffi in two weeks," she said. "It was difficult because, suddenly, coming into the French I was more the favourite than Steffi. That is maybe why I wasn't playing well at the beginning of the tournament."

Seles is under no illusions that her first grand slam final will be an altogether more serious occasion than Berlin, where Graf seemed to lack motivation. Equally, she will go into the match in a more positive frame of mind after ending a sequence of the consecutive defeats by Graf — the first of them in the semi-finals here — last year.

"This will be a totally different match. I will try not to think about the fact that I beat her three weeks ago, but she is going to have to play very well to beat me because I'm going to run for every ball and give everything I have," Seles said.

Graf, who has won eight of the last nine grand slam titles, has shown no outward signs of nerves at the new challenge. It is hard to assess her form because she has not really been stretched over the past two weeks, despite her own protest that she had a "tough first week", but the rest she had after breaking a thumb in February, will surely have rekindled her enthusiasm.

If not, she need only think of last year when she lost to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, spoiling her hopes of a second successive grand slam of titles. "There is no difference between this year and last. I always try as hard as I can. Everybody is motivated for grand slams."

TENNIS

Gómez is making a strong case for all the over-thirties

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a fortnight dominated by youth, it is ironic that the final of the French Open on Sunday will feature Andrés Gómez, the first player over 30 to reach that stage for 17 years. The ageing left-hander, playing in his 27th grand slam, beat Thomas Muster in the quarter-finals. Until he met Muster yesterday, Marcelo Filippi, at 62, was the highest ranked player he had had to beat.

The only person in Roland Garros who did not seem remotely surprised that after all these years he should find himself on the threshold of his first grand slam title was Gómez himself.

"It will always take someone very good to beat me at this stage of a tournament," said the No. 4 seed. "I have thought to myself before that one of these days things will change for me and I will come out on top."

To do that, he will have to beat Andre Agassi, also playing his first grand slam final, but 10 years earlier in his life than Gómez. The American was just too quick and too determined for Jonas Svensson, winning 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 in two and a half hours.

Gómez will reflect that he can never have had a clearer run to the final of any tournament and that he will never have a better chance of recording his own little bit of tennis history. If he wins, he will become the first Ecuadorian ever to win a grand slam title.

His path was eased considerably by the withdrawal of Magnus Gustafsson in the fourth round and the injury to Thierry Champion, the last French player in the tournament, who was still suffering from a hip injury when he was beaten by Gómez in the quarter-finals. Until he met Muster yesterday, Marcelo Filippi, at 62, was the highest ranked player he had had to beat to beat.

The surprise yesterday was that, having reached the final of Monte Carlo and won the Italian Open, the Austrian should have chosen this moment to produce his most lacklustre display of the fortnight. Even Muster, never easily subdued, had no ready answer. Having beaten Gómez in the semi-final of the Italian Open three weeks ago, Muster, seeded seven, was particularly disappointed that he could not find anything like his best when it mattered most.

"It was one of those days. I

had heavy legs and just couldn't turn around. Every ball I played he put pressure on," he moaned. "Compared to Rome, I didn't play nearly as well."

The feeling beforehand was that Gómez had to dispose of the tough left-hander, seven years his junior, as quickly as possible before age and fitness told. But few anticipated just how quickly. Inside two hours, with a short break for rain after three games, Gómez had taken the match 7-5, 6-1, 7-5 and was contemplating a day of rest with his family today and a sterner test on the

21st.

Asked if he was intimidated by the Austrian at any stage, Gómez replied: "It is hard to intimidate a 6ft 4in, 200lb person. I'll tell you what is intimidating. Becker running round a forehand which might go at you. That is intimidating."

Having lost the first two sets, the Austrian's last stand came in the middle of the third set. He levelled to 4-4, but just as he seemed to be wrestling his way back into the match, he overhit yet another forehand and Gómez politely served out for the match.

The more aggressive Muster got, the gentler and more incisive tennis did Gómez play. In contrast to Muster, Gómez has an economic style which at times reduces the game almost to slow motion. At times, Muster seemed hypnotised by the Ecuadorian's charms.

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The Times on the first day of the World Cup finals in Italy as the home nations prepare to meet the challenge

Robsons united in choice of champions

From STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
CAIARI

THE England manager and his captain spoke with one voice yesterday when they considered not only their first-round opponents, but the whole of the field in the World Cup finals. Both Bobby and Bryan Robson picked out the Netherlands as the immediate concern, as well as the potential champions.

With the exception of Muhren, the Dutch side is the same as that which won the European title two summers ago. Even Rinus Michels, who was in charge then, has been reinstated. "If they can find their rhythm again," Bobby Robson said, "they will be a danger."

His namesake forecasts that the

Netherlands "could go all the way if Guillen turns it on". But Bryan Robson does not discount the possibility of England playing them twice in the tournament. The two nations collide here next Saturday, and could bump into each other again in the final on July 8 in Rome.

"I would be more than happy to reach the final," Bryan Robson said. "We know it won't be easy, but this is the best England side in my 10 years. The only way to prove that is to go beyond the quarter-finals. We haven't been that far since 1966. The semi-finals often come down to luck. The form of the players matters, of course, but you need a bit of good fortune on the day."

He remembers his own cruel misfortune in the competition four

years ago, when he dislocated his shoulder during the goalless draw against Morocco in Monterrey. "I knew I needed an operation but so many people advised me that, if I exercised, I would be all right. I did hundreds of press-ups a day but the gamble didn't work."

Like his manager, he feels that Argentina, the eventual champions, did not beat England convincingly in the quarter-final.

"The first goal in big games like that is so important," Bryan Robson said. "After Maradona's famous goal, they could defend in numbers and hit us on the break."

The top teams are especially good at that. Maradona would not have been allowed to score that second goal against many international sides.

"We knock our game, but nearly

every foreign side blocks people who are going through. I've been elbowed in every game I've played for England."

He is about to collect his 86th cap, and he estimates that injuries have cost him another 32. He declares now that he is fully fit. He is also ready to erase the dark memories of the European championship in West Germany in 1988.

In spite of creating, in Bobby Robson's opinion, "three times as many openings" as the Republic of Ireland, England lost the opening tie 1-0, and never recovered from the initial setback.

"If we make as many chances against them on Monday I don't think we'll miss all of them again," Bryan Robson said.

"A good start is so important. You only have to look at us in the

last two World Cups to see that."

In 1982, he claimed the fastest goal in World Cup history, after a mere 27 seconds, against France in Bilbao. "We got off to a flying start, won 3-1, and then gave us confidence. We ended up unbeaten. In 1986 we lost 1-0 to Portugal, although we didn't play badly, and struggled to qualify."

The leader of the squad, he states that Bobby Robson's impending departure has not affected the spirit or the determination of his colleagues.

"We knew that either the FA or the gaffer would want a change after the World Cup so it wasn't a surprise, but we expected it to come out later. We've worked together for four years for this, not just a few months, and we all hope now to reap the rewards."

Wright and Woods, who will be

chosen as a reserve central defender and goalkeeper respectively if they are fit, will undergo further examinations tomorrow. Otherwise, the team is prepared.

Bryan Robson said that he is on an individual as well as a collective mission. He wants to win 100 caps, a target which would require him to feature in the qualifying stages of the 1992 European championship. He intends to be involved.

"I'll have to keep Paul Gascoigne, Neil Webb, Steve McMahon and David Platt out of the side, and they are all excellent players."

"But I want to play well enough through these finals so that the new gaffer finds it difficult to leave me out."

That possibility can already be disregarded.

Whelan to return for tie with Egypt

From CLIVE WHITE
RABAT, MALTA

RONNIE Whelan finally faced up to the inevitable last yesterday when he joined himself out of the Republic of Ireland team to face England in their opening World Cup game in Cagliari on Monday. But with renewed optimism he declared that he would definitely be fit for the Republic's second game, against Egypt, in Palermo, in eight days' time.

Whelan, who has sustained an injury to his left thigh in his efforts to recover too quickly from a broken right foot, soon realised after the start of the full-scale practice match that the promise he made two days ago about attaining fitness was based more on hope than expectation.

"I just can't get any quicker," he said after withdrawing his 10 minutes from the end of the half-hour match. "I'm one pace all the time and it's not a very good pace. I couldn't get through that game so I've no chance of getting through the game on Monday. If I was in a situation where I had to chase Lineker I'd have no chance without being 100 per cent. A couple more days and it might have been different."

Despite what Jack Charlton, the Republic of Ireland manager, said afterwards about "mixing it up and giving everyone a game" the practice match, certainly from the outset, looked distinctly like the Probables versus the Possibles. Charlton was declaring his hand in a match played before a handful of holidaymakers and only a couple of British and Irish journalists, then the team to play England would be Morris, McCarthy, Moran, Houghton, McGrath, Townsend, Sheedy, Aldridge, Casciaro.

The notable omissions from that line-up, other than Whelan, were Staunton and O'Leary. Staunton played throughout for the Possibles while O'Leary only came on in the second half for McCarthy. Morris and Staunton had been Charlton's first-choice full back pairing since the European championship finals two years ago, in which time Staunton has gained 13 caps, the most recent only last Saturday against Malta. Morris has appeared in 21 of the Republic's last 24 internationals.

Houghton has performed on either flank usually only in the case of injury to the other two. But since arriving here at the start of their 11-day build-up to the finals, the Tottenham Hotspur full back has, in the words of Morris, "been playing out of his skin". Staunton conceded that Houghton's "10 years' first division experience and that of a European championship" could tell against him. He admitted that his own form has not been outstanding, just to compound his concern, Staunton scored an own goal in a 3-1 win for the Probables, for whom Aldridge scored two.

Inexperience is hardly an excuse which O'Leary, with 51 caps could use should he again be overlooked at a crucial moment by the manager he fell out with four years ago when the Arsenal defender put a family holiday before a tour to Iceland.

There was good news, though, for Houghton, the other Liverpool player over whom there was serious injury doubts when the squad left Dublin two weeks ago. He proved beyond doubt his recovery from a back injury with a sharp performance.

Dublin may move

THE Brighton defender, Keith Dublin, aged 24, is to have talks with Watford. He has missed only seven games since joining Brighton from Chester for £5,000 nearly three years ago.

Galliers to coach

THE former Wimbledon midfield footballer, Steve Galliers, who joined Maidstone last season, has been appointed full-time youth team coach by the Kent fourth division club.

Fears mount in Brazilian camp

From RODDY FORTY
NAPOLI

THE overblown structure of the World Cup finals is a guarantee that, in the opening stages at least, the two dozen managers and coaches are obliged to have a grasp of arithmetical possibilities which would do justice to a bookmaker's tallyman. Group C is no exception to the ferment of calculation which has overtaken the participants, but it is not easy to distil a consensus from the predictions emerging from the various camps.

The Brazilians have suddenly developed manic depressive tendencies, despite the general feeling that this tournament offers them the chance to restore their ascendancy. They have pulled up the drawbridge at their training camp in Asti, declining to talk even to their own compatriots, so that when Roberto Falcao arrived yesterday to visit the squad, the architect of former Brazilian triumphs was mobbed by grateful journalists.

He offered no substantial hope that Brazil will electrify as so many expect them to do. "We have no Socrates, no Zico, no Pele. We have had to make arrangements which are not usual in our style of football," he said.

"We have fears for our form, which are not good for a team which needs to express itself through its football. I think both Scotland and Sweden could cause us serious problems. The first game against Sweden we have a lot to do with the way this group develops."

If Andy Roxburgh, the Scotland coach, could have heard Falcao, he would have nodded in agreement. Instead, he was attempting to fathom the result which would suit Scotland best from the collision of the Swedes and the Brazilians and failing to reach any firm conclusions.

"A draw might be the most useful outcome for us because,



Practice makes perfect: Marco van Basten, the forward, spearheading The Netherlands' challenge in the World Cup finals, is squeezed off the ball during a training session in Palermo yesterday by his colleagues, the defenders, Ronald Koeman (left) and John van Loen

Sardinian fair-deal appeal

By JOHN GOODBODY, CAGLIARI

AS THOUSANDS of England supporters began flooding into Cagliari, the leading Sardinian newspaper yesterday appealed to local residents not to regard all their visitors as potential hooligans.

In a front-page editorial, which tried to calm the fears of the inhabitants and at the same time restrain any of the focal youth from attacking the English, *L'Unione Sarda* spoke of the "hoodligan psychosis" which has developed on the Mediterranean island.

"They say the hooligans are probably racist. This is probably true, but at least we Sards should try to judge people by their behaviour and not their nationality. Witch-hunting in any era has never brought any good," it said.

The words had particular force because yesterday three Englishmen were attacked, but not seriously injured, by some local young men.

The paper said: "Maybe it was inevitable after people have talked about nothing else but violence for months, but the island has been taken over by hooligan psychosis with a result that every male English citizen

including a special list of 100 people, who can be stopped from entering Italy under a law dealing with undesirable aliens. After appealing for public help last week, the unit has had about 90 calls a day, including hoaxes, giving details of troublemakers who are arriving for the World Cup.

Inexperience is hardly an excuse which O'Leary, with 51 caps could use should he again be overlooked at a crucial moment by the manager he fell out with four years ago when the Arsenal defender put a family holiday before a tour to Iceland.

The newspaper added that it was probably too late to appeal for a road-slow and asked people not to behave in this way. It agreed that England possessed a history of football-related violence but added: "We should remember the furious bantams outside our own stadiums before setting out the equation: English equal hooligans."

Steve Beauchamp, a spokesman for the English Football Supporters Association, applauded the leader, stating that it was "about time the Sardinian press after months of whipping up hysteria was finally seeing sense". He appealed to the English supporters to turn the cheek and to walk away from trouble.

Meanwhile, officers of the National Football Intelligence Unit arrived from London with a computer carrying details of 1,200 known troublemakers.

including a special list of 100 people, who can be stopped from entering Italy under a law dealing with undesirable aliens. After appealing for public help last week, the unit has had about 90 calls a day, including hoaxes, giving details of troublemakers who are arriving for the World Cup.

Baker's brother

KEVIN Baker, aged 15, of the Lilleshall Hall club in Shropshire, the brother of European PGA Tour professional Peter Baker, has entered the Essex/Daily Express national boys' golf championship. Over 400 players will be playing 12 qualifying rounds before the final in September.

Woman referee

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AFP) — One of New Zealand's oldest provincial rugby unions has taken on its first women referee, Michelle Smith, aged 17. She is the first woman referee in the 109-year history of the Otago Rugby Football Union.

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THE TIMES
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FIXTURES

Today

Group B
Soviet Union v Romania (Bar, 4.0).

Group D
United Arab Emirates v Colombia (Bologna, 4.0).

Group A
Italy v Austria (Rome, 8.0).

Tomorrow

Group A
United States v Czechoslovakia (Florence, 4.0).

Group C
Brazil v Sweden (Turin, 8.0).

Group D
West Germany v Yugoslavia (Milan, 8.0).

TELEVISION

Today

EUROSPORT: 10.30am-11.45pm, 12.30-1.15am (continues), and over-night World Cup: Argentina v Cameroon, Italy v Austria, Soviet Union v Romania and United Arab Emirates v Colombia. T.V.: 7.40-10.30pm: Italy v Austria from Rome.

ITV: 11.20pm-midnight: World Cup report. GAZETTE: 10.35pm-11pm: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 5: 10.30pm-11.45pm: Italy v Austria from Rome.

TELE 2: 11.30pm-12.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 1: 12.30am-1.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 3: 1.30am-2.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 4: 2.30am-3.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 6: 3.30am-4.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 7: 4.30-5.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 8: 5.30am-6.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 9: 6.30am-7.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 10: 7.30am-8.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 11: 8.30am-9.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 12: 9.30am-10.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 13: 10.30am-11.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 14: 11.30am-12.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 15: 12.30am-1.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 16: 1.30am-2.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 17: 2.30am-3.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

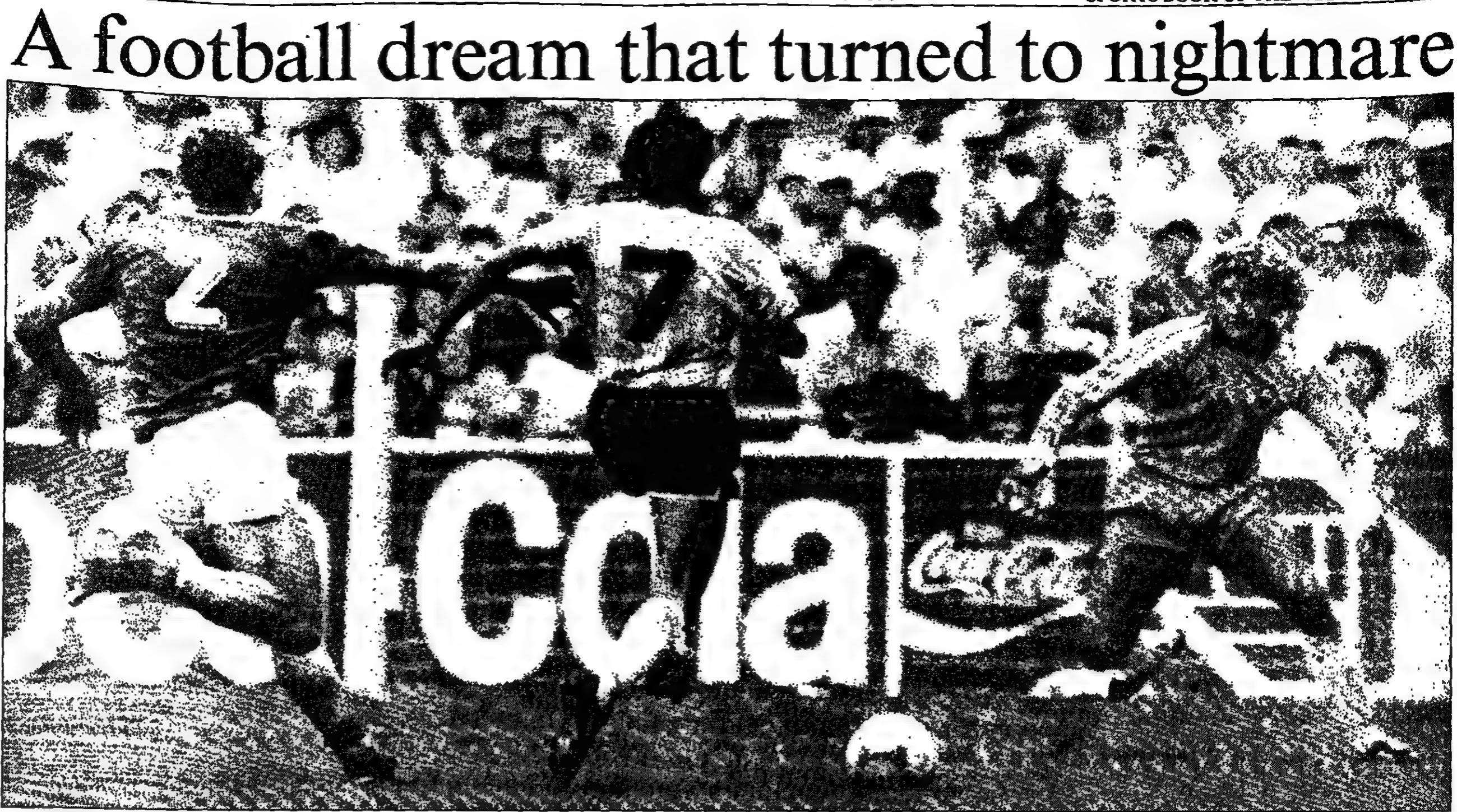
TELE 18: 3.30am-4.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 19: 4.30am-5.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 20: 5.30am-6.45am: Soviet Union v Romania from Bar.

TELE 21: 6.

Whelan to return for tie with Egypt



The way a World Cup was won: and for the West German goalkeeper, Toni Schumacher, the moment that crowned a personal disaster in the final, as his hesitation gives Jorge Burruchaga, of Argentina, room to score the winning goal

It's always the same. For weeks on end, players and sports officials had been living together, more or less amicably. Training together. Eating together. Even sharing sleeping accommodation. Fits of hysterical laughter or angry outbursts, tension and clashes – such are the consequences of communal life when you put together nearly 30 adults whose dominant characteristics – not to say professional qualities – are pride and an ego the size of a furniture removal van.

And then all this was suddenly forgotten, swept aside. We all became as polite and timid and moderate as monks in a monastery. Team-mates all but started addressing each other as strangers. We did become strangers to each other. No, it was worse than that: we became strangers to ourselves. Outside the hotel, in Mexico, just as we were about to get on the coach, Hermann Neuberger, Egidius Braun and all the other West German team officials and supervisors came to see us off, and to wish us luck.

There was a strange apprehension in their eyes as they focused on some distant point over our shoulders. There was awkwardness and reserve. The very few words spoken seemed incongruous and obtrusive. The fear of failure was invisible and unspoken. Intense, indescribable feelings. Huge responsibilities.

I'm the goalkeeper in the West German squad. I've played in two European championships. This is my second World Cup tournament. This time I want to be world champion. No messing about. Each match is a challenge. And today more so than ever. I'm trembling with emotion, with excitement. The other players are quiet. With good reason. Only in silence is there any stature; all else is pathetic.

I want to become world champion. For four years, I've wrestled with the lazy swine that I am deep down inside. I've struggled relentlessly to conquer my own mediocrity. I've trained with iron discipline, every hour, every day. Will these sacrifices soon be rewarded?

Frantz Beckenbauer, world champion in 1974, a 'big brother' to us and our coach, moves about with the stiffness of a Prussian general. His eyes gleam with an energy that he seems to want to transmit to us. I can understand the tension and nervousness this once-inspired player must be feeling. Now his job condemns him to have no control over winning or losing, except mentally. Those

agile legs of his are of no help or use to him now.

"Schumacher lives inside his body as though it were a prison," he once said of me. But today he's in the same prison. And perhaps more so than I am.

Matthäus has a sombre, determined look in his eye. He knows what's expected of him. He has an overwhelming responsibility in this game. One that doesn't seem to worry him too much. He is to be Maradona's marker and keep the Argentinian striker out of the game. This is his assignment.

The final against Argentina must be played as though it were a 10-a-side match, with the Matthäus-Maradona duel a simple, not to say stupid, to neutralise Maradona, the football genius. As for the rest, we're relying on the German team's fighting spirit!

I feel sorry for Rummennigge, our own football genius. I admire him enormously, despite the stupid things he's said about me, and about the so-called "Cologne mafia" of which I'm supposed to be the Godfather and which supposedly hounds him and persecutes him. Poor martyr!

Today, his face looks as fresh and pink as a little marzipan pig.

But either side of his nose is deeply tanned. He claims to be in great shape. But he's worked like an animal to reach his form. I take my hat off to him! What's going on in his mind right this minute? Will his brain, his intelligence, hamper his creativity, his goal-scoring instinct? Will his reflexes be curbed, inhibited or worse still, destroyed?

I know what the after-effects of an injury are like. I know that feeling of hesitation that creeps up on you at the decisive moment. Will those injured muscles and ligaments stand up to the impact? Will they tear? These questions are always at the back of your mind. So you need a truly iron will to do violence to your own body, the tool you work with. Pushing back the barriers of pain is an eternal struggle. Suppressing the pain to the extreme limit, to the point where you can't take it any more. For me, pain is just an illusion. Does Karl-Heinz Rummennigge know this too? I hope so. For his sake and for ours.

We're on the coach en route to the Mexico Stadium. I'm sitting on the back seat, on the right. This is where I invariably sit. Mexico's grubby light penetrates the curtain that I've drawn across the window.

National anthems. The sun is now directly over the stadium. It's heating down on our heads. There isn't an inch of shade anywhere. Which is very good for the picture on the screen, they say. The Mexicans are relaying these matches to TV stations all over the world. One and a half billion viewers ... it's enough to send shivers up your spine. Best not to think about it.

The air in this town is stifling, despite the air-conditioning. We're late, and to cap it all, we're

trapped in one of Mexico's legendary traffic jams.

The headphones of my Walkman are pressing on my ears. I'm immersed in the music of Peter Maffay, my favourite German rock singer. His music shields me from the town, from this thousand-eyed crowd that I sense, rather than see, through the windows of the coach. The words of the song fit this situation exactly: "I'm strong only with a gut anger ... I'm prepared to be torn apart from my friends ... I gladly give you your revenge and I'm strong only with a gut-like and anger."

Mexico Stadium. Bright colours. Flags. Doves of peace everywhere. The crowd roaring and shouting. Bread and circuses.

Am I also a gladiator? Or one of the wild beasts? I don't like anybody inside this stadium. But I don't feel any gut-hair or anger. What revenge is that guy Maffay talking about? I wonder? I simply want to become world champion and my opponents are not necessarily my enemies. I've played a clean game so far in this World Cup. Just a couple of days ago, I massaged the Mexican, Hugo Sanchez's, legs – he was suffering from cramp and crying out in pain. And I coddled him, as well as Negrete, off the field, after Mexico's defeat.

Today, his face looks as fresh and pink as a little marzipan pig. But either side of his nose is deeply tanned. He claims to be in great shape. But he's worked like an animal to reach his form. I take my hat off to him! What's going on in his mind right this minute? Will his brain, his intelligence, hamper his creativity, his goal-scoring instinct? Will his reflexes be curbed, inhibited or worse still, destroyed?

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trapped in one of Mexico's legendary traffic jams.

Toni Schumacher became infamous for a foul he committed during West Germany's 1982 World Cup campaign. Here he recounts how he failed to redeem himself

From the moment I start moving, I know that I'm not going to catch anything. Every hundredth of a second seems like an eternity. I go sailing across the penalty area like Lohengrin sailing past his swan. My last hope: "Will a German player manage to head the ball away?"

But it wasn't to be. An Argentine head gets there first and the ball into the back of the net. I watch this catastrophe dumbfounded. But inwardly, I'm silently shouting. Can it be that creativity suffers from too much concentration? I made no excuses. There was no point in dwelling on it.

"I gladly give you your revenge," Maffay sang in my Walkman headphones. Will there be any revenge for me? I'm sweating. Despite this torrid heat, I feel cold. I promised myself I was going to prove that I was the best keeper in the world, that I wasn't going to make any mistakes. "And this is how you start the final! So much for wanting to play like a god!"

I have no choice now: for the remaining 75 minutes, I have to play a perfect game! Like a faultless machine. And make everyone forget how I leapt like a nanny goat into the void. What about that wild beast I'm supposed to be?

A goalkeeper never scores a goal. And he can't correct his mistakes. He can only envy the striker who, with a single shot that finds the mark, can wipe out a hundred balls that he's sent sky-high. For a keeper, it's all or nothing. Success or failure. He's either a king or a nobody.

I really hate myself. Now I've got that gut-anger.

The 'prey' is still bouncing around. A long way off. No threat. And then suddenly dangerous, it's brought under control and kicked about by Germans and Argentines. Matthäus is still marking Maradona closely, but all the same, the field is swarming with Argentines.

One of them breaks away. Valdano. He's got the ball. I run forward and try to draw him. I give him an opening as I move towards him. He goes the other way. The prey grazes past my knee, out of reach, and carries on to the back of the net.

"Stay on the line," shout Förster and Magath.

Rummennigge manages to score off a corner taken by Brethe. 1-2. Jubilation. A little later, comes an unopposed-for equaliser. 2-2. We go wild. The Germans are always on the offensive. Much too often. We're taking too many risks.

"Stay on the line," my teammates told me.

Five minutes before the end of the game, an Argentinian breaks away with the ball and comes hurtling towards me. I have to come off the line. But I hesitate. This time I get there too late – and the penalty for misjudging it is let another goal through.

The whistle goes and it's the end of the match. There's no extra time. No penalties I could have saved – penalties that would have redeemed mistakes.

"A good goalkeeper is a player who's in a position at several points during a game, to save his side. By his individual efforts, by going beyond his capability in a voluntary act," said Jean-Paul Sartre. And he was right.

But this time, I haven't saved anything. Had I become a bad goalkeeper?

Dejection – no, depression is the word to describe the feeling that washes over you from head to foot when you've lost a final. You think you're going to die.

The winning side are elated. They leap around, their tiredness and exhaustion forgotten. The losers feel thrashed, beaten, bone-tired. Only our plucky midfield player, Biegel, has tears in his eyes. Rummennigge is deathly pale. The disappointment in the German side is tremendous. The losers are alone in the midst of this crowd shouting with joy. And every one of the 11 defeated players is alone with himself. The eleventh man, the keeper, the outsider, is on his own yet again.

Only victory creates a sense of union within a side.

I feel I'm to blame. A missed ball is an opportunity lost for me. Frustration. Empty hands. A wind inside my head.

I would have given anything to be world champion. Well, not anything. Not my children. Not my parents either. Nor my wife, Marlies, nor Rüdiger Schmitz, my friend and personal manager. But otherwise, I'd have given anything, including my health.

I would have been prepared never to play football again after this final if I'd have become world champion.

I've missed my chance. I know that, for me, there isn't going to be a next time. Football isn't like ice-hockey, where there's a world championship every year. For us footballers, four years is a long time. In Spain, and in Mexico, the German team has had to be content with second place. And by the time the next World Cup comes round, I'll be 36.

FOOTNOTE TO THE FINAL

After that defeat in Mexico, I looked at Oliver's photo, and I said to myself: "Look, Toni, at least you've got healthy kids." That suddenly made me feel better and gave me new strength. I was ready to face the world again, and the press and officials.

I know that I deserve my enemies. But I'm not going to let this get me down.

Since the 'foul' I committed in Batumi in Spain, in 1982, I'm perfectly aware that people have a negative view of me. There are plenty who would like to topple Schumacher from his pedestal. A bit like Muhammad Ali, in his day. He was another big-mouth, but what class!

People can't stand a big-mouth, but they always listen to him.

And everyone hopes and wishes that I'll lose one day, at least once. Before Mexico, people regarded me as a kind of monster. A block of marble standing in front of the net. A guy with no human feelings whatsoever, and only one concern: not to let any goals in!

The perfect German machine, as it were.

And then I go and make a terrible mistake, the kind of mistake only a thoroughly ordinary human being could make. My critics were completely thrown by this, like dancers who start a fox-trot on the wrong foot. I was inundated with messages of sympathy. People felt sorry for me; the press, not so much.

I had finally matured. I had acquired a human aspect. All this is a bit simplistic – although kindly meant, I admit. In fact, I had always been human, but crazier than most, more obsessed, too, by my responsibility in goal. For years, I had been classified as some kind of wild animal, and given a place in humanity's chamber of horrors. Because I was German, people thought I was made of the same metal as the torturers at Auschwitz. And now people were beginning to see me in the game, on his own yet again.

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Adapted from Blowing the Whistle by Toni Schumacher, published in paperback by WH Allen and Co (£2.99).

MOTOR RALLYING

Wet weather should suit the favourite

HEAVY rain in Scotland in the past few days has made David Llewellyn, of Wales, an even stronger favourite to win the CHI Scottish rally which starts from Glasgow today (a Special Correspondent writes).

Winner of two of the three previous rounds, Llewellyn begins the fourth round of the Shell Open rally championship in his four-wheel-drive Toyota Celica with a 15-point lead over Malcolm Wilson, who is restricted to two-wheel-drive on his Ford Sierra Cosworth.

Colin McRae, winner of the opening round in another Sierra Cosworth, is the most likely threat to the top seeds on the 35-stage, three-day event, as his father, Jimmy McRae, and another previous winner, Russell Brooks, both have less powerful cars.

YACHTING

Atlantic race losing appeal

A FALLING number of entries and a lack of sponsorship threaten the future of the two-handed transatlantic race, according to the Royal Western Yacht Club (RWYC), which organises the event. (Keith Wheately writes)

There are 37 confirmed entries for this year's race, which starts from Plymouth at noon tomorrow, only half the number that competed in 1986. Tony Bullimore, the British owner-skipper of Spirit of Apricot, the

leading British multihull, has withdrawn because of a back injury suffered in a recent car crash.

According to the RWYC's commodore, Lloyd Pearson, there is a distinct possibility of the existing race being replaced by a new Anglo-Soviet event from Plymouth to Leningrad, via the Polish port of Gdynia.

"There is no doubt that this race in Newport has run its course," said Pearson. "There are so many more long-distance

events there used to be and competitors are becoming blasé. Perhaps people don't get excited about crossing the Atlantic any more. It has certainly proved impossible to raise sponsorship."

The RWYC has received an invitation from a Leningrad yacht club to run a joint race in 1994 and initial soundings have suggested considerable enthusiasm for the idea. "We're certainly very keen as a club to have a go at it," Pearson said.

It will be a low-key debut.

In marked contrast to the snub by the Cowes establishment to the Formula 40s last year, when the multihulls at

Wallace well placed after setting record

NIGEL Wallace, aged 23, who won the British senior air rifle championship during his last year as a junior in 1987, set a British record of 580 in the UTT World Cup meeting at Zurich, which is being used by Britain as the final selection test for the world championships.

Our Rifle Shooting Correspondent writes:

Despite his British record Wallace was "counted out" of the final by a German on the same score.

The gold medal winner, Debevec, of Yugoslavia, who is now a top world prospect in small bore and air rifle, equalled the air rifle world record of 596 then, with 103 in the final, set a world record of 699.4.

RESULTS: Air rifle: 1, P. Debevec, 688.4 (586); 2, J-P. Amat (Fr), 696.2 (690); 3, H. Steenvoog (Nor), 694.3 (591); 9, N. Wallace (GB), 589. Other British: Potts, 586; C. Hester, 578.

POWERBOATING

Drivers prepare for a unique test at Bristol

By BRYAN STILES

THE angry waters of Bristol's docks are regarded as the most dangerous and exciting test of a Formula One driver's skill and nerve. It is no place

RUGBY UNION

Wales hope to end tour of Namibia on high note

From OWEN JENKINS

WINDHOEK

WALES will start as overwhelming favourites for the second international here today, when they will seek to gain a convincing victory to end their tour in some style.

Namibia must have realised by now that if they are to make a serious challenge they must abandon their stop-start style and run the ball at Wales. Their inferior technique has been exposed in set-piece play and the talented players they do have are not being seen at their best because the wrong tactics have been adopted.

Fred Howard, the referee, who has been in the best position to appraise the tour, was severely criticised by Henning Snyman, the Namibia coach, after the first international.

Yesterday, however, Howard said: "Snyman has accepted just how lacking they are. He has realised, having seen the video of the game, that he was totally wrong and has said so. Wales are light years ahead of Namibia in winning and retaining the ball. But I don't think there is sufficient experience in this side to cope with, or be successful in, five nations' rugby. They need more exposure and experience and I dread to think what would happen if they played the All Blacks."

"But Wales are going about it in the right way by introducing new blood and if they can combine that with those experienced players who didn't make the tour, then they will have something to build on."

Paul Thornburn, the most capped player on the tour,

RUGBY LEAGUE

Familiarity may breed a close Tour encounter

From A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, NAPIER

A HOST of familiar faces will confront the Great Britain touring team for their first match in New Zealand, when they meet a President's XIII here tomorrow, a venue more notorious for washed out cricket Tests than rugby league games.

Only one of the starting 13 has not played in England, and most have been on the books of English clubs in the recent past. After a high-scoring but unrevealing trial game, there are still places open on the New Zealand side for the first international on June 24, and effectively this will be the best chance for players like the former Wigan prop, Adrian Shelford, Peter Rapetti, of Leigh, and St Helens forward, George Marler, to make a clean break from their past as a player for front row places. Another, 10 English clubs will have representatives in the New Zealand side, and familiarity should make for a close game.

The Great Britain coach, Malcolm Reilly, aware of the strength that will face him in Napier, has selected a powerful squad to contest a match which will set the tone of the Tour. He has almost a full party available to him, with only Skerrett, the

FISHING

Thames salmon given two passes on the river

By CONRAD VOSS BARK

TWO more salmon passes have been opened on the Thames, at Sunbury and Chertsey weirs, in the 11-year struggle to restore a naturally spawning population of salmon to a river which, 200 years ago, was one of the finest salmon rivers in Europe.

The passes were constructed by the National Rivers Authority on behalf of the Thames Salmon Trust and funded by two commercial companies, the Howden Group and Joseph Johnston Sons.

Salmon are coming back to the Thames to spawn after their deep-sea feeding will now be able to pass the high concrete weirs by swimming through four separate pools at Sunbury and a single channel at Chertsey.

These two passes were the second and third to be built by commercial sponsorship — the first was at Shepperton. The appeals director of the Salmon Trust, Major John Hyslop, says: "An ideal opportunity for companies to publicly demonstrate their commitment to the environment."

There is much yet to be done. London's merchant bankers, many of them salmon fishermen, have not noticeably leapt to contribute. A salmon pass

costs at least £20,000, in some cases much more, and there are still nine requiring commercial sponsors at Boveney, Boulters, Marlow, Temple, Hambledon, Marston, Shiplake and Marston.

The original aim of the Trust was to try to get a run of about 1,000 salmon a year by next year, but it is already clear that they may only get half that number. False hopes were raised by the original publicity provided by the former Thames Water Authority in 1980, which gave the impression that the Thames was "once again a salmon river" because a couple of fish had been found in a weir.

The Thames Salmon Trust is wiser in not making rash forecasts. It faces a long, slow haul and it may be well into the next century before salmon come back to the Thames in any number. In the meantime, the river is cleaner than it has been for years and to celebrate this, the Thames Angling Preservation Society is holding a fishing competition on July 14.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 9 1990

Softened Epsom ground brings tactical dilemma for jockeys in today's classic

Cauthen breaks losing spell

ANTHONY PHELPS

By MICHAEL SEELY
RACING CORRESPONDENT
STEVE Cauthen, amazingly without a ride in this afternoon's Oaks, broke a long losing spell of 23 mounts without a winner when driving Bean King to victory in the Northern Dancer Handicap, the principal race on the third afternoon of the Derby meeting at Epsom.

Quickeening past the pace-making Barbish two furlongs from home, Bean King eventually beat Gaasid by two lengths. Willie Carson, twice denied a clear run entering the straight, had to switch tactics to the outside. The 2-1 favourite was always struggling and finished a further length away third.

Robert Armstrong now

plans to send Bean King to

Royal Ascot for the Bessborough Stakes. "His owner, James Stone, comes over from America every year for the meeting and loves to have a runner."

Further rain had softened

the ground appreciably and

the time for this race was

approximately five seconds

slower than that recorded by

Quest For Fame in Wednes-

day's Derby.

Having used the tactics for

the first time at the meeting in

the preceding Sun Life Of

Canada Handicap, the jockeys

in the big race again adopted

the time-honoured manoeuvre

of bringing their horses over

to race on the faster going

under the stand rails.

The 64 thousand dollar

question now being asked is

what will the jockeys do in this

afternoon's classic? The last

time it happened was in 1985

when Cauthen won on Oh So

Sharp. But on that occasion,

the running rails had been

moved seven yards towards

the stand side. thereby

narrowing the track. But at

this meeting, for the first time

in history, the ground against

the rail has been rested since

Wednesday and the course

will therefore be widened to its

maximum today.

Talking about the dilemma

that will face probably Walter

Swinburn on Kartajana and

any other jockey who needs to

use forcing tactics, as the field

swings into the straight,

Cauthen said: "It will all

depend on how much rain

there's been overnight. You'd

have to walk the track and

make up your mind. Coming

over to the stand's rails means

going 25 yards further. But if

the ground is cut up on the far

side, you can fall into a heap."

The almost invincible Pat

Eddery has been in inspired

form at this meeting and rode

one of the best races seen all

season when coaxing Lift And

Load to pass the post a short

head in front of Native Tribe.

For most of the mile and a

quarter journey Lift And Load

appeared to be struggling and,

remarkably, was eventually

dropped home despite his rider

dropping his whip at the two-

furlong marker.

"I must say he didn't ride a

bad race," said Richard

Hannon with relief after the

short-head verdict had been

announced. "Lift And Load

should go well to Royal Ascot

either for the Britannia Stakes

or the King George V

Handicap."

Lafranico Dettori was

another jockey in form, land-

ing a double for Luca Cumani

by winning the Kentucky

Stakes on Tidemark and the

concluding Alberta Rose Fil-

es Stakes on Fire The

Groom, in which the 18-year-

old Italian-born jockey just

got the better of the redoubt-

able Eddery on Singing

With the rain continuing to

fall at Epsom, stamina will be

even more at a premium than

usual in this afternoon's Gold

Saint Oaks.



Heard A Whisper (Paul Eddery, right) sprinting clear of Mighty Dragon (Willie Carson, left) at Epsom

In Wednesday's Derby, Quest For Fame and Blue Stag, both with stout middle-distance pedigrees, made a nonsense of the established form book.

So this afternoon the lightly-raced but progressive Kartajana can outlast the two-silks' fastest half-furlongs and, with the rain continuing to fall at Epsom, stamina will be even more at a premium than usual in this afternoon's Gold Saint Oaks.

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Kartajana, both proven soft-ground performers, Kartajana is a reasonably confident nap to give Michael Stoute his fourth, Walter Swinburn his third and the Aga Khan his second consecutive Oaks triumph.

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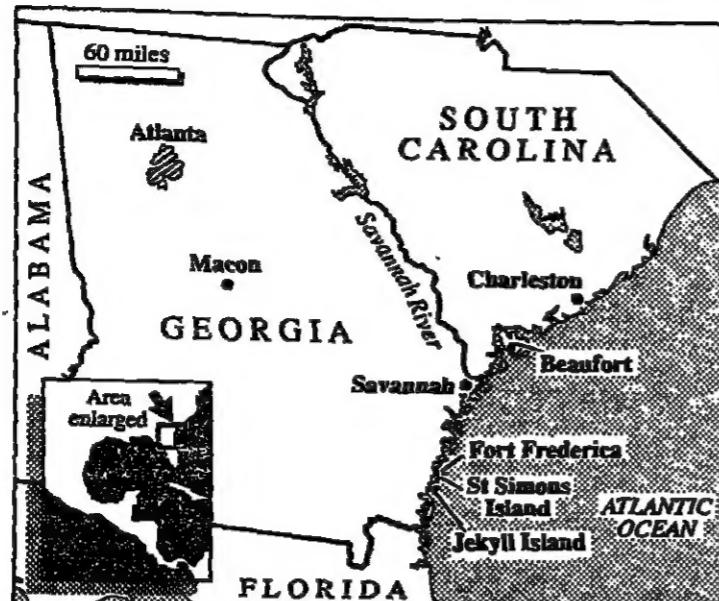
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- BACK TO THE HASTINGS BATTLEFIELDS
- MICHAEL WATKINS IN NAPLES

The spirit of Georgia in Kelly's Bar

The morning sun in Atlanta transforms a brash American city into an elegant gateway to Georgia, last of the 13 original United States. Tom Millar visited islands, churches and bars, but never made it to Jimmy Carter's peanut plantation



Playing Lego on the moon: downtown Atlanta is the phoenix long risen from the ashes of Sherman's burning. With its elegant buildings and litter-free market squares, the "Big A" is now a vibrant centre of business and government

He was black and he was bumming a quarter. "Guess you ain't feeling kindly to the homeless, sir." It was said without bitterness, almost teasingly. Across the street, a man displayed a hasty notice of condition and intent. "I want to eat. I will work." The light was fading. The travel agent had somehow found me a hotel in what seemed a black ghetto. Minutes earlier, a black man had warned me to get off the street before dark.

I returned to the hotel and to television and wondered, for the first of many times, what the pictures and the hype told me about America. The adverts obsessed with fast food and fast remedies for indigestion, sleeplessness and stress. The sitcoms, unbelievably banal. The news, a trawl of the world in 30 minutes. There was Thatcher. Here was Tammy Faye Bakker, her eyes like wells gushing liquid mascara. What on earth could explain the devotion of middle America to the Bakkers and Swaggarts?

Still sleepless at 3am, I opened the curtains to look out on the Atlanta Expressway where cars, six abreast, headlights gleaming, hissed past like miniatures on some distant racetrack. Would I make it?

In the morning sun, it was different. I breakfasted at a Wendy's, sought directions from a fellow diner and walked confidently along North Avenue and Peachtree Street. Parts of suburban Atlanta seem to be the work of someone playing Lego on the

moon. Downtown, the "Big A" is the phoenix long risen from the ashes of Sherman's burning. Once described as "a good location for one tavern, a blacksmith's shop, a grocery store and nothing else", it is now a vibrant centre of business and government.

It boasts the largest airport in the world. Its state capitol building of cool Indiana limestone has a gold-plated dome. Elegant buildings give way to market squares, clear of the litter that makes a hell hole of London's West End.

South to Macon, then east along highway 16 and the renewed experience of an American Interstate, lined with trees mile upon mile. The occasional gaps in the tree line suggest that the aim is to hide the Great Bugger All that stretches on either side, acres of trees and swamp grass. Roadside notices warn of \$300 fines for throwing trash on the highway. Here and there on the hard shoulder great chunks of retreat provide moments of some unspeakable event. The sombre miles are interrupted by the passage of a snorting five wheeler or a Greyhound bus, its passengers featureless shapes behind the tinted glass.

Speed signs come and go, minimum 40, maximum 65. The sign posting provides early warning but, in heavy following traffic, "Right lane must turn right", can breed panic in the unfortunate who intended full ahead and for whom Exit 19 holds no attractions. Lane discipline deserves the rear window advice "Passing side... suicide". It is where slip

roads merge with Interstates and Expressways that danger lies. Mis-time entry and you're dead.

Savannah is where Georgia began, last of the 13 colonies that made up the original United States. Here James Edward Oglethorpe marked out two dozen symmetrical squares. They are shaded with great oaks, their branches trailing tails of Spanish moss. Chipmunks forage in the grass or sit up, rub their paws and peer inquisitively around. Dignified white clapboard homes border the squares and line the streets.

From Bay Street, almost vertical stone steps pitch down to Factors' Walk, with its walls of oyster shell, ballast and brick. Cobbled ramps provide a less precipitous route to the walk and to River Street below.

On a sunny morning I visited the Independent Presbyterian Church, a branch of the Church of Scotland. I had taken in the oval dome, the solid mahogany pulpit and the slave entrances in the gallery before the church guide appeared, to admit blushingly that she had nodded off in a back pew. Now "a little old southern lady", she had been baptised at that marble font. Lowell Mason, author of "Nearer My God To Thee" and "From Greenland's Icy Mountains" had once been the church organist. In the parlour of the old manse, Woodrow Wilson married Ellen Louise Axon.

In a waterfront Irish pub a Yankee immigrant provided the sales pitch for a visit to Beaufort in South Carolina. Its gingham main

street gave no hint of the elegance of the mansions fronting the bay. To visit George Parson Elliot House or Lafayette House, once occupied by Union soldiers, was to experience at a distance the pain of Confederate owners forced to flee these lovely homes and to return to meet their debts with a worthless currency.

From the main street an outside wooden stairway led to the mark of Kelly's Bar and to the Carolina habit of serving spirits in miniatures. A faded notice provided the tariff for a bar-answering service.

Not here 25c
Just left 50c
On his way 75c
Haven't seen him
In a week \$1.50
Who? \$2.50
Just left with his wife No charge.

Across the bridge to Lady Isle and dinner at the Steamer Oyster and Steak House. The sturdy table had a hole in the centre for a metal nail and the napkin was torn from a roll of kitchen paper.

The Frogmore Fish Stew was delicious and the presence of several attractive, pregnant waitresses gave the place a homeliness that helped explain its popularity.

Charleston beckoned but so did the Golden Isles strung along the Georgia coast. Some are inaccessible hideaways of the exclusive rich. From the top of the St Simons Island lighthouse there is a fine view of Jekyll Island and the Atlantic Ocean with, in the distance, the all wooden Christ Church and with trussed Gothic

roof and, nearby, Fort Frederica. A morning stroll along St Simon Pier. A friendly dog appeared, followed by its well groomed, attractive owner. In minutes she had my name, where from, where going? Travelling alone? So far, so good. Given a bank statement, I could picture myself rocking gently on the veranda of her stately home and accepting a mint julip from her smiling coloured maid. She asked my age. I made the mistake of telling the truth. Somehow, all that hope seemed to wither. I turned to look at the shrimp boats, their arms outstretched to catch the harvest, their following nets raided by screaming gulls.

Too early for dinner at Blanche's Courtyard, I was directed to Murphy's Bar and promised the company of "eccentric millionaires, some businessmen, construction workers and the crews of the shrimp boats". I could believe it. The place had the atmosphere of some last chance saloon. There was a long bar, four pool tables, two dartboards over a massive brick fireplace and a seven-shelf corner of books that looked untouched since Oglethorpe defeated the Spaniards at Bloody Marsh in 1742.

There was only one girl in the place. She wore cat-high heeled leather boots, denim and a sleeveless black waistcoat. Between breaks at the table she donned a straw hat. Her presence helped explain why most men sat with their backs to the bar. A Gabby Hays (eccentric millionaire) in an immaculate tropi-

cal suit and deerstalker accepted my offer of a pipeful of Condor. Warned that it was strong tobacco, he replied: "I'm 81. Do you think I can stand it?" He had to admit later that I was right — about the tobacco.

He suggested that I visit St Augustine in northeast Florida. He was not the first and I was not disappointed. A 400-year-old community, established in the time of Philip II of Spain to protect the treasure fleet homeward bound. Here I attended Sunday morning service at Memorial Presbyterian Church. The text was, "Do you know how to pray?" A glance at the well-heeled congregation suggested that supplications for the good things of life were usually successful.

Go where you will, there is always somewhere else and, as departure day draws near, "you can't get there from here", takes on new meaning. You are too early or too late for the Prairies, Mill Country Fair or the Cherokee Fall Festival. You haven't tried hang gliding from Lookout Mountain or white-watering on the Oconee River. You haven't visited Jimmy Carter's peanut plantation, FDR's home at Warm Springs or the apothecary shop of John Pemberton, creator of Coca-Cola.

The couple who have just pulled into the motel courtyard haven't been there either. He must talk, she is anxious to get settled for the night and appears twice to call him in. "She ain't the best natured woman, I pay no attention and it passes."

His courtesy, his interest in the

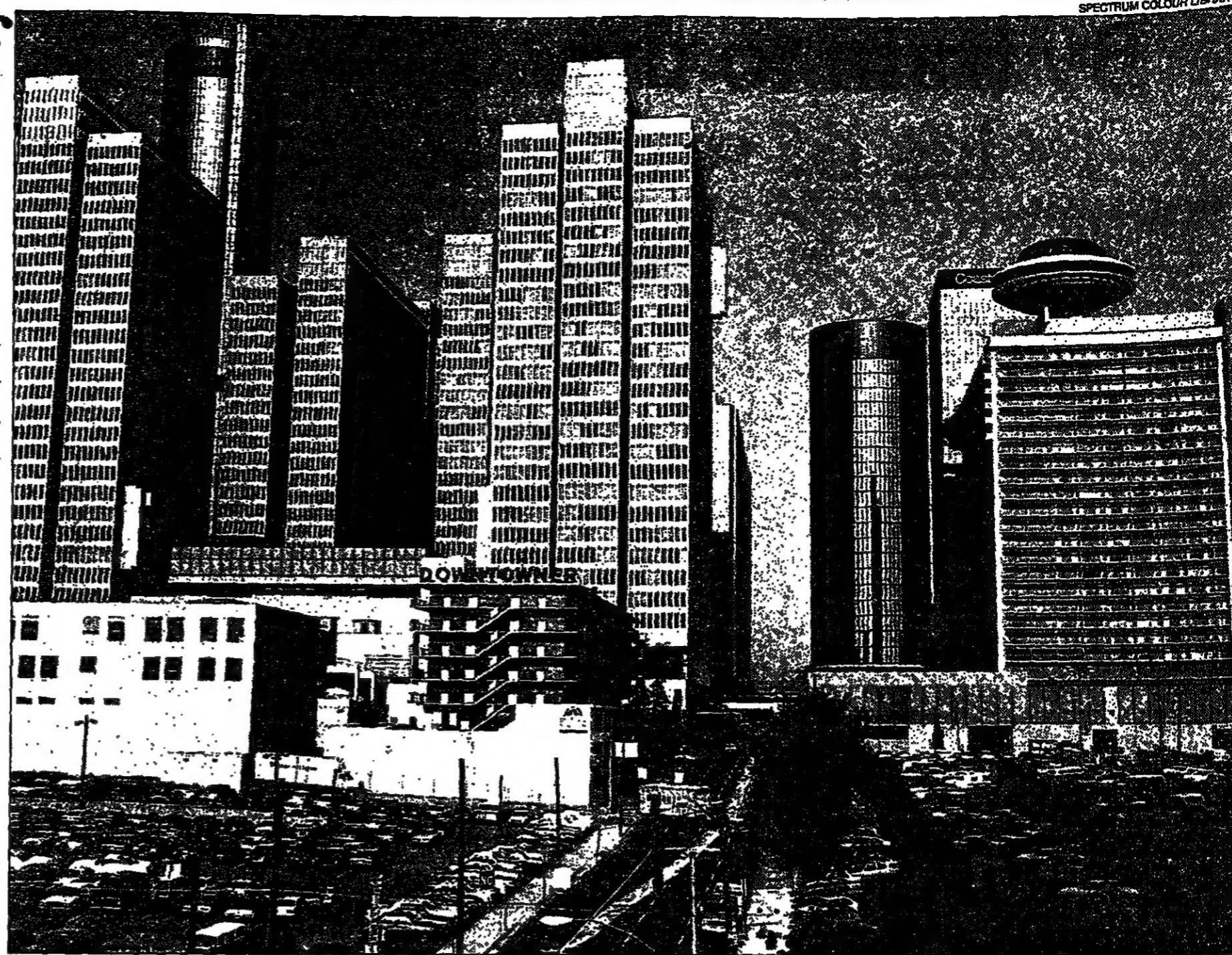
stranger provide a sad but telling contrast for the last lap home on the Royal Scot from Euston. On a crowded train an old, white-haired dame contrived to occupy two first class seats to Lancaster. She met all comers with frosty eyes and lied in a dowager accent that claimed a gentility she had never known. I turned to the paunchy businessman opposite. He closed his eyes to avoid contact, to open them quickly at the first call for lunch. Who now was a stranger in a strange land?

TRAVEL NOTES

• British Airways (081-897 4000) has direct daily flights from Gatwick to Atlanta. A Super Apex fare costs from £339 return. Hertz offers an "Affordable USA" deal. It includes a collision damage waiver, which is essential.

• Motels were used throughout. Rates advertised on roadside hoardings sometimes differ from the price quoted at reception. State tax is additional. Visitors Centres, in or near most towns, supply lists of accommodation. Arrive by noon and shop around. Ask for discount as a foreign visitor/senior citizen or member of the A.A.A.

• Georgia on my Mind issued by Tourist Division, Georgia Department of Industry and Trade, PO Box 1778, Atlanta, Georgia, provides a guide to its state's many attractions. The Atlanta Convention and Visitors' Bureau, 233 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 200, 30343, provides first rate information. Take with you Frommer's *Where to Stay USA*. At £8.50 it is worth every cent.



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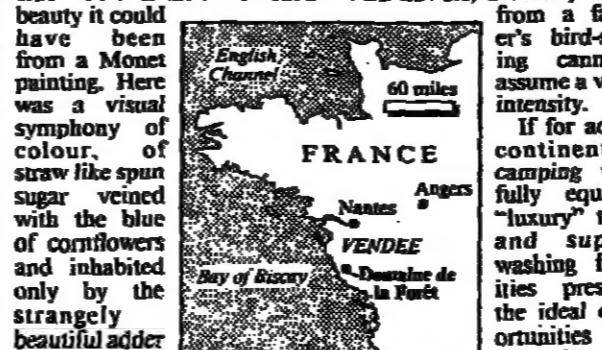
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The poetry of camping

Michael Young finds lyricism in life under canvas by a French château



Comme dans the château at Domaine de la Forêt



city children camping has the romance of total, unexpected freedom. Within the confines of the site, they can simply go anywhere they

please, making new friends with an ease which adults find altogether bemusing. When the pleasures of such freedom begin to tarnish, the on-site couriers will organize games and activities in a way that is both casual and unregimented.

The Vendée itself possesses a country-cousin blandness when compared to the exotic nature of the south or the bloated, self-satisfied opulence of the Dordogne, but it does have vast beaches and acres of sand-dunes, and there is the Atlantic ocean, where we stood up to our ankles in water that was far too icy to tempt us further, content in the knowledge that nothing but this vast, geographical expanse stood between us and America.

Off-season, the Vendée has gales too, great tribes of them occupying quiet, out-of-the-way places, the men blocking the roads in gossipy clusters. It has, too, a distinct back-water, quiet, regional feel which I found unpalatable. But on this occasion in early spring, with a far from hostile sun on my back I was more than content to stroke the lengths of the pool, my children splashing at my side and my head spinning with the imagined mystery surrounding the château and its owners.

TRAVEL NOTES

Michael Young camped courtesy of Eurocamp (0565-50022), two adults for 14 nights from £249 low season, £265 high season; includes ferry crossing. Children under 13 free off season; £43 each high season for 10-13 year-olds.



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TRAVEL

PETER WEST

TRAVEL NEWS

Have chair, will travel

WANDERLUST afflicts the disabled too, and *The World Wheelchair Traveller*, published by the AA at £3.95, cannot be recommended too highly. It is tough, practical and inspirational.

The National Trust has converted a pair of 18th-century farmworkers' houses on its Hadrian's Wall estate in Northumbria for use by handicapped people. Springwell, 150yd from the wall, is the first National Trust holiday cottage to have an electric stair lift. The cottage is equipped for six people and the trust recommends that at least one member of any visiting party be able-bodied. National Trust Holiday Cottages, 0208 73830.

Welsh comfort

LLANGODD Hall, a new country house hotel owned by Sir Bernard Ashley, opens today. The house, in the valley of the River Wye, between Builth Wells, Brecon and Hay on Wye, was designed by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis (architect of Portmeirion) in 1913 and incorporates part of a Jacobean manor. A double room costs from £105 per night including full Welsh breakfast for two. There is no service charge (0874-754525).

Shona Crawford Poole
Travel Editor

TRAVEL BOOKS

• The ultimate test of a travel book is whether it makes you want to go there. *The New Shell Guides* pass with flying colours. The latest additions to the series – *Sussex*, by John Godfrey, *East Anglia*, by Christopher Catling, and *Gloucestershire and Hereford & Worcester*, by Christopher Catling and Alison Merry (each £1.99) – follow the familiar gazetteer format. Each town is described in the detail it deserves, and most pages are illustrated with a good colour photograph. The casual reader can open any of the books at a random page and be assured of finding a destination which looks and sounds interesting. If you don't feel like hopping in your car to explore after reading these books, you are immune to the travel bug.

• Even people who think they know Italy well may be unable to pinpoint the subject of *Northern Lazio – an Unknown Italy* (John Murray, £16.95). This is the area, just north of Rome, that was the cradle of the Etruscan civilization which predated the rise of the Roman republic. The authors, Wayland Kenner and Elizabeth Young, attribute travellers' neglect of this area to the fact that it is overshadowed by the glories of the city. But then, they argue, means that northern Lazio, rich in Etruscan and later historic sights, is remarkably unspoilt. The subject makes for interesting reading but the book's use of uninspiring black and white photographs is disappointing.

TRAVEL NOTES

• There are regular train services to Pevensey and Westham from Victoria and London Bridge, and to Hastings from Waterloo, Victoria, London Bridge and Charing Cross. Second-class return fare to Pevensey and Westham is £10.60, to Hastings £10.90 (first-class single £15.90 and £16.30, respectively).

Jenny Tabakoff

By train to the fields of war

Russell Chamberlin
listens to the
Norman war cries
echoing across a
valley near Hastings,
and stands where
Harold fell and
shaped our lives



At first sight, the view seems depressingly familiar as one emerges from the crisp little railway station which serves both the villages of Westham and Pevensey, in Sussex. Villages? The area seems the very epitome of Subtopia: dispiriting mass-produced buildings selling mass-produced goods, belonging to chain organizations and bisected by a murderous highway. But all is not what it seems, for like diamonds in clay, there are survivals maintaining continuity with the past: a half-timbered dwelling house, an old courthouse, the solid stone church of Westham proudly proclaiming "This was the first church in England built by the Normans". Inside there is more continuity, more links between remote past and busy present: a touching little guide-book, written by the children of the parish and drawing attention to such details as the early 13th-century font "where some of us were baptized".

Outside the west door of the church is a holy water stoup: it is almost at ground level, whereas it would originally have been at least waist-high. Evidently, the land has risen greatly during the nine centuries since the ships of William the Conqueror nosed their way round what was then the peninsula of Pevensey, to ground on the shingle beach below the Roman fort of Anderida. The fort is now at least a mile inland and you get your first view of it from Westham church – a view that covers two millennia of England's history. The road curves off sharply to the left, away from the coast, taking with it the lunatic stress of traffic. The old road – old by seven centuries when the Normans arrived – continues. It is fringed now with suburban houses and choked with parked cars; but at the end the vista is blocked by the immense, grey, enclosing wall of the fort.

In our passion for "conservation", Anderida has been barbecued and manicured until it resembles a vast garden ornament, but it is still deeply evocative. The sheer size is impressive; William's entire force was probably accommodated within it on the night of the landing, and the permanent castle built within it a few years after the Conquest, though large, is tucked into one side. It played a role even in the Second World War, for tucked into the romantic ruins are cleverly sited machine-gun posts.

It was impossible for the Normans to advance northward from Pevensey, for the way was blocked by the Andredewald, the vast forest that covered most of south-

east England. The army therefore moved on to Hastings to await the coming of the Saxon army along the Roman road from Maidstone. I followed William by train and, walking across the flat plain from Anderida to the railway station of Pevensey Bay, received a vivid lesson in geology. Although the station platform is only two or three feet high, you can get a glimpse of the distant sea and, turning round, see Anderida rising up from a promontory. Quite evidently, a thousand years ago the whole of this plain was the sea bed, the railway now running along it to Hastings.

Companions of wind and rain have shaped the Hastings coastline as drastically as they reshaped that at Pevensey. Today, the beach in front of the town runs in a more or less straight line from east to west: in the 11th century the coast was pierced by two deep inlets with a

The battle started at 9am: Harold received his wound about 5pm, and by dusk it was all over

200ft cliff in between. With a Norman's sure eye for a military position, William ignored the Saxon town established on the western side: instead, his troops ascended the towering cliff and there erected a temporary fort similar to the one they had erected inside Anderida. Ironically, the area of Hastings known today as the "Old Town" is, in fact, the New Bourg established by William's descendants and, along a coastline that has largely succumbed to an orgy of candy-floss stalls, bingo halls and "amusement" arcades, Hastings Old Town still retains its heart and identity, an enchanting medley of styles from the 15th to the 19th century.

The fort at Hastings was so important that it figured by name in the Bayeux tapestry, and was rapidly followed by the permanent stone fort of which the present ruins, high above Hastings, are the remains. This fortified cliff was William's base for 16 days while he awaited the advent of the Saxon *Fyrd* under Harold. Late on the afternoon of Friday October 13, the Norman scouts caught their first

sign of the main Saxon army as it assembled at the rendezvous point, the "hoar apple tree" on the site of what is now the local authority offices in the town of Battle. Sunrise the following morning was 6.30, by which time the Normans were on the march. Four miles from Hastings, Saxon and Norman had their first full sight of each other, around 8am, from across a valley about a mile wide. The Normans were assembled on a rise called Telham Hill by the chroniclers, but known today as Blackhorse Hill, just off the A2100, while the Saxons lined up on a ridge called Sandgate. Gallicized into "Senlac", this was later translated, with romantic hindsight, as "lake of blood"; but it was simply the Anglo-Saxons for "sandy ridge".

I followed on by train. Would Dr Beeching have been permitted to wield his axe today quite so indiscriminately, quite so enthusiastically as he did in the Sixties? I doubt it, for even with our powerful and ruthless road lobby it is becoming evident that road transport is devouring itself. Above all, the train slips through the landscape causing the minimum of change so that, allowing for natural changes, one is seeing what has survived for centuries.

Battle railway station is a delight.

Built by William Tress in 1852 in the fashionable Gothic, it not only

survived Dr Beeching's attentions, but was one of the first of our stations to enjoy a face-lift, benefiting from the novocentenary celebrations in 1966. Battle itself is the quintessentially English country town: splendid high street, with buildings of every period from the 16th century onwards, and with the rich Sussex countryside within sight and sound and smell. There is a significant homogeneity, about some of the stone buildings erected after the mid-16th century, their stone was plundered from the abbey with which William marked the site of the battlefield. The parts of the abbey that remain habitable today, including the great gatehouse, are a private girls' school. The ruins of the abbey, together with the battlefield itself, are public property in the care of English Heritage.

Astonishingly, despite the nine

centuries of change that have taken

place in this region – one of the

most crowded in western Europe –

few man-made objects are visible

on the battlefield, the most obvious

being the ruins of the abbey on the

Santiache. The marshy bottom of

the valley, whose nature dictated

the Norman tactics, has now

largely resolved itself into four

ponds and the land has risen so

much that only one relict of the battle, an axhead, has been found. But the approach to the ridge along which the Saxons assembled is still steep enough to provide an indication of the formidable challenge presented to the Normans. It is even possible to identify the hill-ock, on William's left flank, where he stationed the Bretons, one of the three elements of his army. English Heritage has provided excellent but discreet signposting around the battlefield, making it possible to follow physically each known phase of the battle. It is deeply moving to discover how small was this climactic site: you can walk around the entire perimeter in about half an hour. The two armies were separated by perhaps five minutes' brisk walk.

The battle started at around 9am: Harold received his wound about 5pm, and by dusk it was all over. To commemorate it, William

ordered that the abbey be built on

the ridge. The monks were horri-

fied by their instructions to build

on a waterless height, contrary to

every tenet of monastic architec-

ture, and began plans to build,

logically, lower down the slope. But

William's iron will prevailed: the

high altar was to be built precisely

on the spot where Harold

Godwinson fell. And that was

when it was built and tended for

five centuries until a member of

yet another dynasty claiming Eng-

land, the Welshman Henry VIII,

decreed its destruction.

The outline of the abbey has

been carefully marked in the turf so

that it is still possible to identify the

site of the high altar. Nearby, in

1903, a French historical society,

Le Souvenir Normand, was

permitted to erect a monument,

generous in intention but of excre-

ting vulgarity of design. It bears

the following legend: "Dieux Aie!"

Dans le champ historique de Senlac où tomba le brave Harold le Saxon 837 ans après la bataille qui donna à la Grande-Bretagne La Loi Normande. Le Souvenir Normand venu des Bords de la Seine à proclamer avec joie la Paix des Normandes". Dieux Aie! – the high altar of the Normans. It says something about the English that they permit the record of their greatest defeat in the language of the conqueror.

TRAVEL NOTES

• There are regular train services to Pevensey and Westham from Victoria and London Bridge, and to Hastings from Waterloo, Victoria, London Bridge and Charing Cross. Second-class return fare to Pevensey and Westham is £10.60, to Hastings £10.90 (first-class single £15.90 and £16.30, respectively).

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ATHLETICS
New faces
still too
strong for
the Finns

TRAVEL

A city that lives on passion and trash

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN SIMS / ALAN KECHANE

Michael Watkins
treads the wild
side of scruffy
Naples, and finds
a haven on the
Amalfi Coast



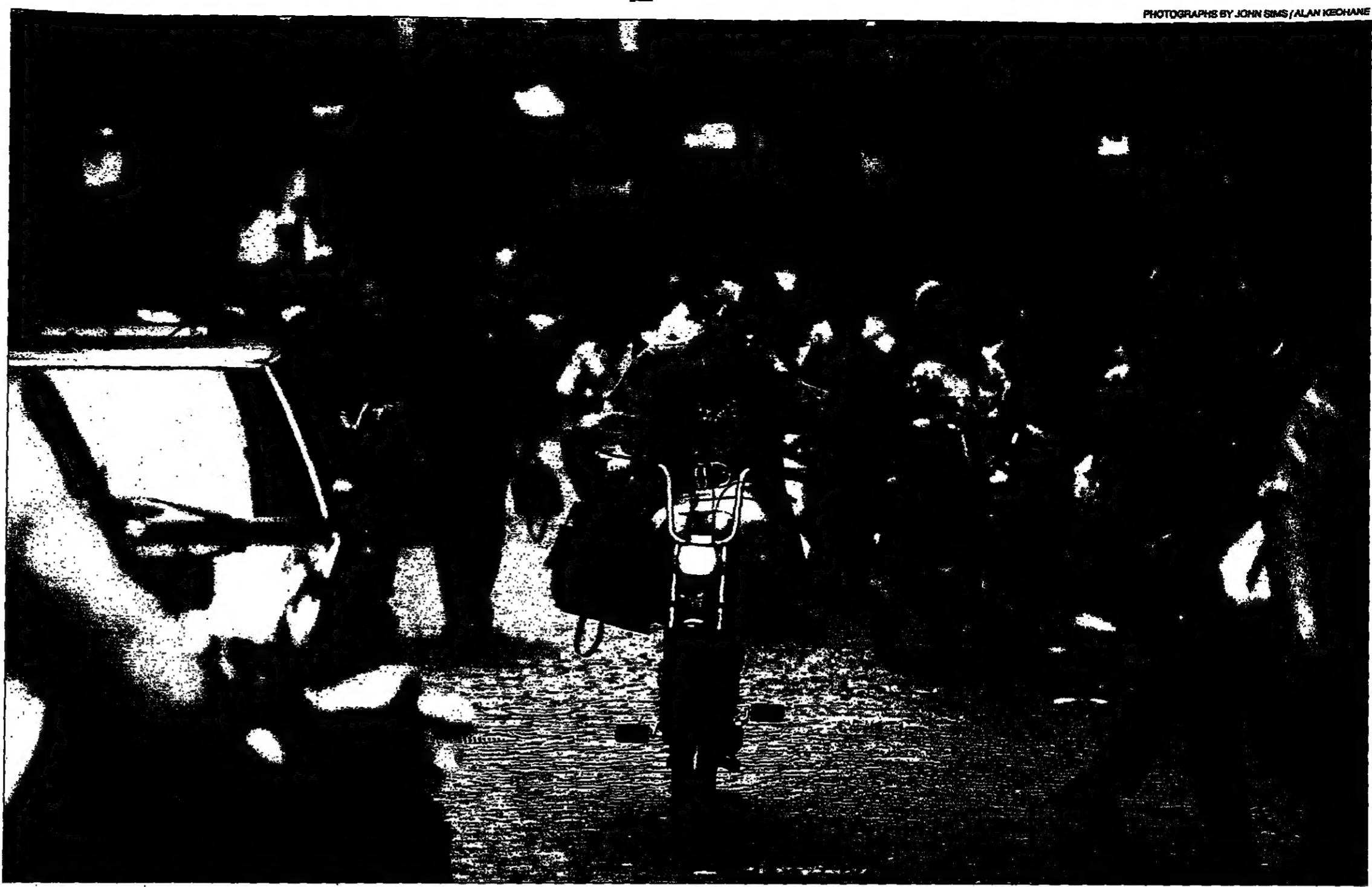
There is nothing wrong with Naples that a tough mayor couldn't handle. Two names come to mind: Ed Koch of New York and Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, preferably working in tandem. Having interviewed both, I know them to be capable of moving mountains.

Moving mountains is what is required in Naples; refuse mountains of unspeakable potency. There is nothing rectilinear or select in the application of this filth; it is arbitrary, of almost impromptu disposition. The patina of neglect smeared across the city is self-applied, signaling despair, resignation.

The writing is on the wall in more dialects than one, graffiti inscribed with impunity on both the sacred and the secular. Equestrian statues career off to long-forgotten crusades spurred on by daubed polemics on their pedestals. Urchin footballers tackle each other between neo-Doric columns of the Church of San Francesco di Paola, slamming goals into doors through which penitents pass to confession.

The meat of Castel Nuovo, sturdily embellished by Alfonso I of Aragon, is awash with rotting vegetables; the Umberto Gallery is supported by scaffolding, a cripple on municipal crutches. And the stench makes one gag.

I arrived on Saturday, wednesday day and eve of the football championship match between Naples and Lazio. Checking in at the Excelsior, where my room overlooked the twin hulks of Vesuvius and the United States aircraft



Shopping Napoli style in the Via Chiaro: a vibrant cocktail of voices, car horns and spluttering scooters



**'In the alleys,
all small boys
are Diego
Maradona'**

carrier Saipan, I made for the Capitaneria di Porto. Brides, married for minutes and mummified in vestal tulle, were being arranged by photographers. Mothers, puce with importance, officiated, assisted by bridesmaids, lactic and gasping in their too-tight frocks. Only the grooms held back, starched and strained until camera shutters encased them in perpetuity, one flesh now but two against the world.

A world you might feel inclined to disown if you came from the Via Solitaria, where I spent the afternoon, swallowed by that crepuscular half-light common to slums. Acres of grey washing stirred in a fetid breeze; pavements were sticky; people moved in slow motion, reduced.

Only the very young breathed fire in those alleys that reeked of fish and disillusion. Always they had a football, which they dribbled from one tenement to the next, grazing their knees and bleeding their noses, towards those arenas of faith and hope where all small boys are Diego Maradona.

In La Bersagliera, where the concierge recommended I should eat, three old men, accompanied by an accordion, wheezed lachrymose Neapolitan songs, *bel canto*, at the customers; so I supped across the harbour at La Scialuppa where, between the antipasto and the mussels, I witnessed two quayside brawls. The participants in the second, and the more pitiless, were women.

On Sunday morning, the sound was tuned up full volume: car horns, rangles, whistles and sirens; these were the battle hymns urging the Naples football team to victory. Flags, streamers, placards and scarves, these were the regimental colours, tribal ju-ju by which Lazio would be crushed. The Church of Santa Chiara was my sanctuary; it offered charity, and reason. Whether you believed or not,



Despair: only the young breathed fire in those alleys

at least it housed order. One would forget the outcome of the afternoon's match, but not the church, not entirely. And if you did, there was always the comfort that the Church might not forget you.

Naples won. Maradona was the hero of the hour. Through the long evening and longer night the city gorged on victory. Even American sailors, bullet-headed in bars, joined in the celebration, which was wholesale, ecstatic, affectingly sweet and never vicious. I saw then that there was no alternative to victory, it was a foregone conclusion.

Neapolitans, who were on a losing streak even before the Boursos, could not afford to lose a game of football.

I left then for Pompeii. Abjuring the gladiatorial autostrada, I took the coast road, which swarmed with more

park tickets cost as much as entrance to the ruins themselves. A few tourists are undoubtedly scrupulous, but I'll bet others are scuffily un-

Even so, a weird stillness attends the multitude passing through the tumults of this crematorium. So many dead, 20,000 or so, baked and buried in lava, calcified one midsummer morning in ancient history. It is a melancholy spot, its exploitation degrading.

The Amalfi Coast, from Sorrento to Salerno, refreshes and revives the spirit. Despite the traffic, the mind-numbing jam caused by levitation coaches impaled on hairpin bends, this is one of the Mediterranean's most benevolent gifts. I like to think that it is inviolable, protected even from man's ingenuity.

Sorrento and Amalfi act as twin magnets, their pull immeasurable. Positano, once plundered by Saracen pirates who made off with the Virgin from the Church of Maria Assunta, is plundered by Visigoths of a new order. It is relentlessly picturesque, miraculously sculptured in rockface, three-dimensional like a child's pop-up picture book. I loved it once; now I am content to love it in my mind's eye. Love (not romantic love, the admiral's weapon) needs space in which to grow, and every square metre of space in Positano has been developed.

Occasionally, I dream of a fennel-scented terrace high above the sea, junk-free and silent, where I can make my own rules. Although I have never found it, I have discovered substitutes. One such is Praiano, two and a half miles from Positano. Here, at the whitewashed Hotel Open Gate, they gave me a clean room with a vast terrace above the sea for the equivalent of £40 a night.

Forgive me if you will, but I intend to call three witnesses for the prosecution of Pompeii: Herman Melville, 1857 —

"Pompeii like any other town"; Arthur Symons, 1903 —

"The gashly suburb of Pompeii"; and Ross Macaulay, 1953 — "... the small, plain, windowless houses ... to live in them must have been like living in one of a row of bathing huts". I beg you, when I mention Pompeii's commercial ramifications, not to plead that this is the way of the world, because it is not exclusively so. Consider Ephesus, Jerash, Palmyra. The Pompeii Industry is so venal that car



Morning: time for repairing nets at Pozzilli harbour

cars than a summer pond with gnats, the majority with battered wings, a result of traffic lights being designed purely for decorative purposes. It took me two and a half hours to cover less than 16 miles.

Forgive me if you will, but I intend to call three witnesses for the prosecution of Pompeii: Herman Melville, 1857 —



Memories: a new life starts with traditional photographs in the Piazza Municipio

TRAVEL NOTES

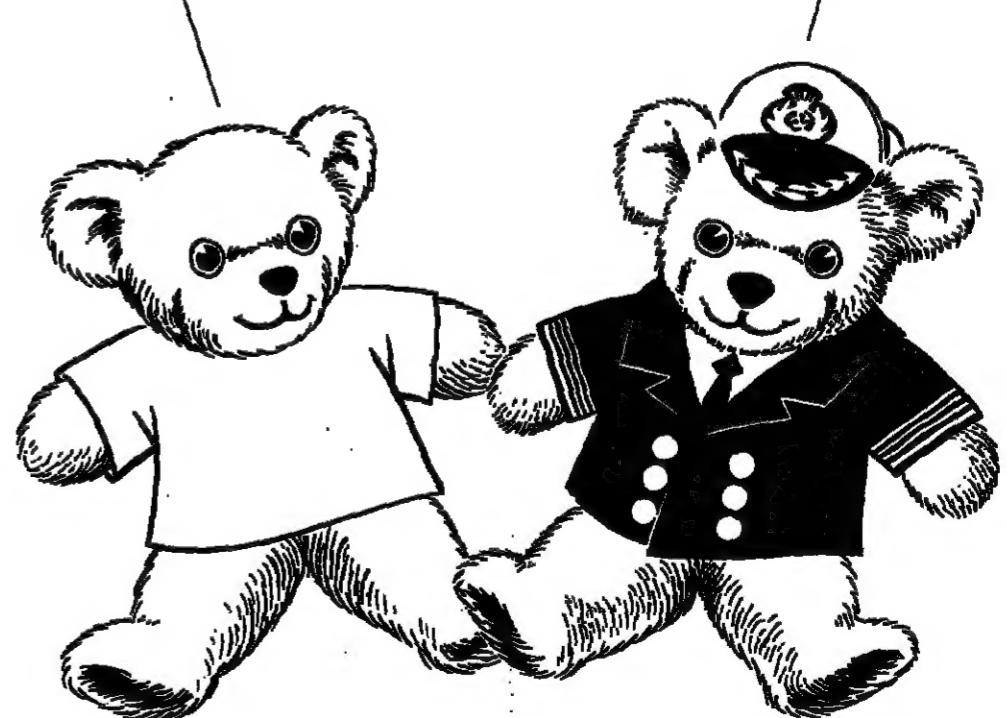
● Michael Watkins's travel arrangements were made by Italatour, 241 Euston Road, London NW1 2BT (reservations 071-383 3886). It specializes in the Amalfi Coast and does not feature Naples in its brochure, but will make individual bookings in the city. For example, seven nights at the Excelsior, including b&b and return flights by Alitalia, Gatwick-Naples, costs £950 per person.

● Example of a 14-day holiday in Sorrento with Italatour's half board at the Hotel President, including return flights by Alitalia, Gatwick-Naples, £1,045 per person in high summer

● Hotel Open Gate, Praiano (010 3969 874148); charters from £149 midweek in June with Pilgrim Air (081-748 1333)

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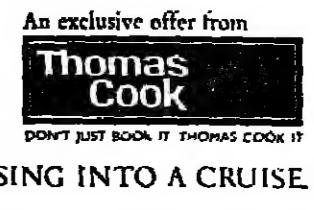
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